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## We shouldn't limit our knowledge



SARAH  
MALIK

a corporate or institutional environment working on that one thing. If they choose psychology, they can take options in the sciences, learn other languages, and study finance, but god forbid if they ever decided to know more about these things at an advanced level.

Education has become all about the ends. We're prohibited from wanting to learn for the sake of learning itself. The irony is that we tend to think this is best for us as individuals—particularly in terms of earning money—though all it does is make for one-dimensional individuals and, worse, one-dimensional and essentially narrow scholarship and work.

One argument I often encounter when I present my reasons for wanting to learn much yet still give back to society as much as I can is that I can't be a valuable contributor if I'm a "jack of all trades and master of none." Yet I feel this is because the way education as an institution has been constructed and designed: it's not a claim that reflects human capacity. If a child growing up can easily pick up seven languages simply by being exposed to them, clearly this means that the child is capable of knowing a lot. So why do we narrow ourselves so much and value the fact that we know so little? We shouldn't stunt this innate ability; we shouldn't look down on those who are genuinely interested in knowing something and working on it and who have the energy and patience to spend their lives learning and picking up as much knowledge as possible.

Taking their GPA and IQ as equal, a student who spends three years in undergrad studying the classical civilizations, completing a PhD focusing solely on Roman religious behavior, and thereafter devoting his life to this area is not better than another who knows not only this, but also chemistry, biology, and Socrates.

We have the mental capacity to do all this—and our lives are certainly long enough to allow it—and not only are we contributing to society, but we're also bettering ourselves and gaining wisdom and knowledge. This is the highest good of all, and it's the human prerogative.

When filling out an application on an online scholarship engine that would match me with awards, I was asked to select, from a comprehensive list, the academic areas I was interested in. However, when I did this and tried to go on to the next step, the system wouldn't allow me, as I had filled in "too many." Apparently, the magic number is ten.

The application seemed to confirm what everyone else has been asking me: why do you continue taking degree after degree? Why not choose one thing and one thing only, then move on to the next step? I'm now on my third and fourth degrees, but even after degrees in psychology, sociology with a specialization in criminology, philosophy, and classics, I'm still not satisfied.

There's more to learn—so much more. Now I contemplate a new double degree which will allow me to study English literature and art history, but even after that, I don't think I will be sated. I've always been interested in the law, so perhaps I'll go for a Juris Doctoris. I've also loved all things medieval since I was a child and have a fascination with psychiatry, so I see no reason why I shouldn't pursue studies in those fields either.

I've started avoiding new people simply because when I answer the inevitable question as to what exactly I do, they laugh upon discovering that I'm on my third and fourth degree. The assumptions that they make, I have no doubt, are that I'm lazy, don't want to work, or else have a terrible academic record and hence have no chance in the "real world." But none of these are true.

The problem is that students are expected to spend as little time in school as possible focusing on one thing—and then spend their lives in

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CONAL PIERSE

# Cloning dinosaurs would usher in an era of pure awesomeness



DAVID JOHNSTON

**“If the U of A can cure diabetes, cancer and AIDS, then they can surely whip out a few reborn fossils if we throw enough money at them. Now that’s how you celebrate a centennial. It’s a pity no one thought of this idea last week, because it would’ve won someone a guaranteed seat in the SU.”**

My brother is obsessed with dinosaurs, to the point where entering his room is like stepping into the Mesozoic era—and if I didn’t know better, I’d say he had the reptilian version of a furry fetish. It’s a cute obsession that’s mildly offset by the fact that he’s currently 19 years old—but that’s another story.

At any rate, it was his birthday this week, and his list had “subservient dinosaur underling” written at the top. “Well,” I told him, “I can’t clone a dinosaur for you, but I can write an article that’ll convince everybody on campus to donate their life savings to dinosaur-cloning research. What do you think?”

“Dinosaurs!” he replied. That’s actually all he says these days—we’re thinking of bringing in a specialist. At any rate, I think he was nodding, so I knew what I had to do. I went straight to the top authority on dinosaur cloning (whoever came up first on Google) and then watched *Jurassic Park* and *Jurassic Park III*, so I now rightfully consider myself an expert in all forms of DNA manipulation, my C- in Biology 107 notwithstanding.

It’s actually a lot simpler than you think. The “retrieve-DNA-from-fossilized-mosquito-blood-and-clone-dinosaurs” theory Michael Crichton hacked together was surprisingly feasible, and aside from the heavy degradation of the chromosomes that would have occurred, the lack of viable dinosaur egg cells to implant the nucleotides, and the fact that most of the mosquitoes weren’t around in the same period as the dinosaurs in the first place, the theory is totally sound—and I figure those are just minor technical quibbles that can be fixed with a little more research and development.

I mean, we thought putting a real live man into space was impossible, and now here we are in an era when they’ll charge you for launching a real dead man out there. Times sure have changed, and it’s all thanks to the miracle of government funding.

If the U of A can cure diabetes, cancer, and AIDS, then they can surely whip out a few reborn fossils if we throw enough money at them. Now that’s how you celebrate a centennial. It’s a pity no one thought

of this idea last week, because it would’ve won someone a guaranteed seat in the SU. “I pledge to reanimate dinosaurs” is a much better campaign platform than promising to turn the Powerplant into a pool hall, casino, discount shoe outlet, or whatever else the latest money-sucking alternative might be.

And if science and politics aren’t enough to convince you, think about how much bloody fun it would be to have a dinosaur of your very own. You could ride around on them, bring them to class, and smite your enemies. I’d totally get a triceratops and name him “Horny”—because he has horns, you see—and then I’d pet him and my friends would ask if I was feeling Horny today, and then we’d laugh because that’s the kind of high-brow humour we find funny.

So there you see my point, which, if I recall correctly, is that we need to fund dinosaur cloning immediately and with no reservations. If we start now, we can all have raptors sitting under the tree come Christmas morning. Which will be good, since then I won’t have to get my brother two gifts this year, and I can splurge on beer.

LETTERS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

## Let them smoke in peace

Thank you for the article pointing out the tendency of people to single out smokers as being the primary cause of public health concerns (re: “Where there’s smoke, there’s bigots,” 28 February).

Indeed, I have also noticed smokers as targets for approachable subjects in public space as being asked to justify their choice. While I don’t promote smoking and understand its ill effects, non-smokers who so actively oppose the act of it in public should be happy that, with the direction the government’s moving, it will soon be legal to buy, sell, and possess

tobacco products, but not smoke them.

I’m sure it will probably be better to force smokers to remain inside their cars with the windows closed or inside their private homes (possibly with children around) instead of letting them smoke outside in any kind of outdoor “public” space.

Secondly, just for the record, while the local media was quick to jump on the unofficial report of the Black Dog fire as being ignited by a careless cigarette in a trash can before the investigators had even met with all necessary staff, it should be noted that in fact, the fire actually began as a result of an electrical problem.

DM  
Arts IV

Letters to the editor should be sent to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca) (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author’s name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

If you’re a fan of Toilet Duck, be sure to let us know; if not, then let me know so I can lay down the toilet-paper shield.

And thanks for all the letters!



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# POSTER SLAM 2008

In a time of political strife and historically inaccurate Hollywood epics, it can be difficult to keep up with the maelstrom of democracy on campus. Students' senses are assaulted from all angles by a plethora of colourful slogans and unnatural smiles during SU election campaign season.

But fear not, dear readers. The Gateway brings you the only guide you'll ever need to understanding the questionable design tastes of your electoral candidates. This year's Poster Slam is brought to you by **SCOTT LILWALL** and **CONAL PIERSE**—the two smarmiest Irishmen we could find this side of the Blarney Stone—along with their wisecracking handler, **MIKE KENDRICK**. Join us in a visceral journey through the soul-wrenching underworld of SU Election Posters.

TITLE ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE KENDRICK

*Mike:* Let's kick this thing off with the presidential candidates. First on the chopping block is **Janelle Morin**.

*Conal:* I think that the major problem with this is that even Janelle looks bored with her poster. Either bored or drunk.

*Scott:* I would say hungover.

*Conal:* It looks like she's groaning, "Oh man, it's time to campaign. Why did I have so many mai tais last night?"

*Mike:* You're right. It's a bit hard to read all this stuff on the side. I imagine this is probably what her handwriting would look like when she's drunk.

*Conal:* It's also a nice puke green. Like really biley morning-after vomit.

*Scott:* I believe that green actually signifies intensive liver damage.

*Conal:* Or that she was drinking mojitos. Or mint juleps. I don't know what colour those are.

*Mike:* They're not green.

*Conal:* I'm more of a whiskey man, myself.

*Mike:* Obviously not.

*Conal:* Well, her hand on her hip is definitely saying, "If I don't hold myself up, I'm gonna fall over."

*Scott:* I think we might have caught her halfway through a conga line, actually. There's probably 20 people behind her, all holding strawberry daquiris.

*Mike:* And they're all three feet tall.

*Conal:* It's a perspective shot. You wouldn't know it from seeing her in person, but she's actually, like, 30 feet tall.

*Scott:* Maybe we should focus on the poster's content.

*Conal:* I like how she ensures transparency, and she backs that up by having this transparent green bar.

*Scott:* Making it very hard to see exactly what she's planning to ensure.

*Conal:* She's standing next to a brick wall, so she's letting you know that if you don't vote for her, you will be the first against the wall. And I think that having the first word of each of her points in bold caps, it seems like she's just yelling at you. REFORM! STRENGTH!

*Scott:* I thought that was just a time-saving measure. We're busy students; we're apparently a part of all these student groups, so I don't need to read the entire sentence. That's all I need. It's got strength right in there.

*Conal:* She's pretty much the He-Man of campaigning.

*Mike:* Maybe it's referring to the strength of resolve in the 20 Lilliputian villagers forming the conga line behind her.

*Mike:* Well, on to something a little more exciting with our next candidate, **Dustin Miller**.

*Conal:* That's not the word I'd use for it. The word I'd use would be "red."

*Scott:* Isn't this what a rattlesnake sees?

*Conal:* This is kind of like the creature-vision you would see in a cheap *Lake Placid* ripoff.

*Scott:* I think that it's taken from a Predator's point of view.

*Conal:* Dustin Miller is being hunted. He does look like the first to die. You know, the kind of whiny guy who's off in the woods by himself when his flashlight suddenly dies, and then a cougar eats him, and then a python eats that cougar, and finally, a Predator cleans up.

*Mike:* I feel sorry for the Predator that has to grind through all that hair gel to get to the trophy skull beneath.

*Conal:* That is a good defence mechanism against large snakes. They can't bite down directly on your head if you have a very sharp mohawk. I like how if you cut him off at the eyebrows, he's like someone that you can take home for Christmas, but above that, it's the guy your dad's going to hate.

*Scott:* But he claims he's going to unite our student body.

*Conal:* And coordinate student activism. But a buttoned-down activism, like the kind you can write home about without having been pepper-sprayed. Also, he has more bricks, so he's apparently winning. In the choice between him and Janelle, choose more bricks. Choose leadership.

*Scott:* It's a *strong* campaign. A structural campaign.

*Conal:* And whereas Janelle's poster is what it looks like when you're hung over in the morning, Dustin's is what it looks like when you've been punched in the eye and every blood vessel has burst.

*Mike:* Speaking of posters you're not even supposed to see, let's take a look at **Bobby Samuel**.

*Conal:* I don't even know why DIE Board went to so much trouble. These are so bad, they





speaking for themselves. No one is going to read these. Maybe he's going for strength in numbers with sheer over-saturation of information. Some of these posters he doesn't even look comfortable in. In one, he's like, "Man, it's cold outside. I have to put my hands in my back pocket, or they'll frickin' freeze."

Mike: You have to admire that. Bobby Samuel will stand in the cold and endure your hardship.

Scott: I think the slogan, "Take a chance on Bobby Samuel" is saying more than he wants it to.

Conal: I think he's trying to get the gambling demographic. He's the longshot horse, or he wants us to think he is. He's got 10-1 odds. If we vote for him, we get, like, 10 votes back.

Scott: I have to respect a guy who can capitalize on saying, "Hey, I fucked up. Take a chance on the fact that I might not do it again." And he'll ensure quality if he's voted in. Right now, he's carefree.

Conal: You vote him in, and all this will change. That top button on his shirt? Never coming undone.

Scott: What really bothers me is that you've got "Consultation," "Community," "Affordability," "Accountability," and then you've got "Quality." You've got a motif of Cs and As. Powerful letters. And then Quality. Nobody likes Q.

Mike: They're like the France of the alphabet.

Conal: It's the letter that you pull out of the bag in Scrabble, and say, "Fuck! How am I ever going to get that U?" And then some asshole uses U in "aunt" or something.

Mike: But maybe he'll get the 50-point triple-word-score if he actually manages to pull off quality in his campaign.

Mike: God bless **Sheldon Tibbo**, the fourth candidate in the race for president.

Conal: I don't even think that if God came down and endorsed the guy himself that he would have a chance of winning with that Coors Light lanyard around his neck.

Mike: What's even on the end of it? Is that a memory stick or a rape whistle?

Conal: I think it's an atheist whistle.

Scott: Ahh! Evolution! Tweet!

Conal: Do you really need a lanyard like that for a single key?

Mike: Hey man, it's probably an important key. And he sent away a dozen Coors Light UPCs to get that lanyard, so cut him some slack.

Conal: I like this sweater, too. That is a lazy-morning housecoat. I bet there are egg stains and bacon on the collar. And what about his slogan? "Looking in, looking back, looking forward."

Scott: That doesn't even make sense! He's inside already!

Mike: I think those are his instructions for getting dressed in the morning.

Scott: He also found a really unattractive place to take this picture. There's a dirty window and some half-melted snow out there.

Mike: Maybe part of his campaign is to crack down on lazy janitorial staff. I mean, there's monotheistic graffiti painted all over the windows. Somebody's gotta scrape that off.

Conal: I think that this was probably the best of the 24 shots he got on that Kodak disposable.

Scott: No, look at this. I don't think he took 24 photos.

Conal: I guess you're right. He probably took this one, developed it, and just got back a bunch of black pictures. One maybe had a thumb over it.

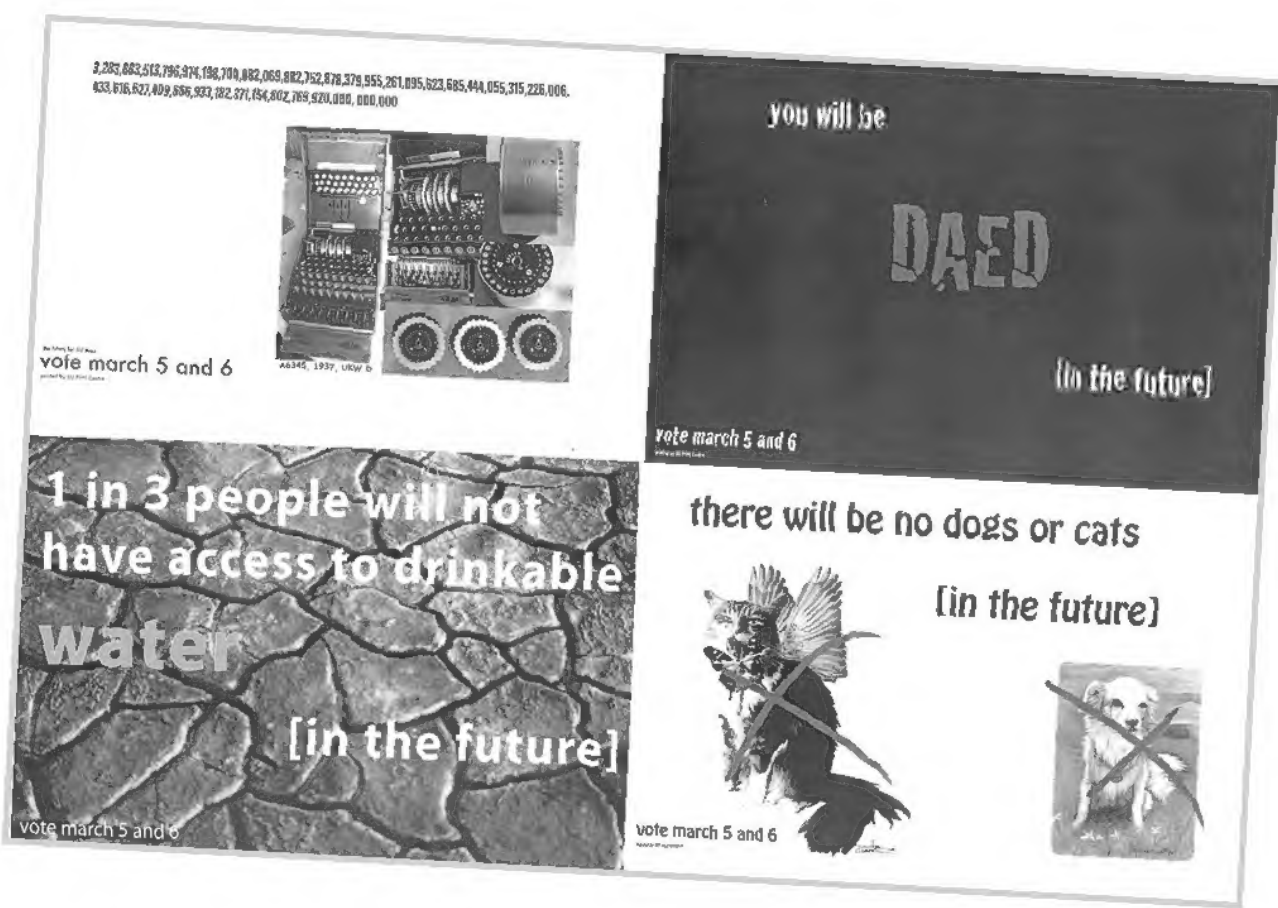
Scott: "God tells me that this is the photo that will make me president." And I have to wonder. God Bless what?

Mike: I think it's supposed to be one of those *Highlights* magazine picture stories. It's saying, "God Bless Sheldon Tibbo," and then you turn the page, and learn an important life lesson from Goofus and Gallant.

Scott: This poster is definitely on Goofus' side.

Mike: On to **the/future**, the one and only joke candidate in this race. At least, the only real joke candidate.

Conal: I don't get it. They spelled "dead" wrong.



Scott: That's how they spell in the future. What I don't understand is the message. "Fuck will not be a swear. There will be no dogs and cats." Is this if we vote for the future? Is this something we're supposed to prevent? Because I'm not a big fan of dogs and cats. Or drinkable water.

Conal: It's talking about 2015, when dogs and cats will be considered purses.

Scott: Like, fashion purses?

Conal: Yeah, you know, you just hollow out a Pomeranian, you put a leather strap on it, and you just fill that with your lipstick and gum. Men, women, everyone will have a purse. You'll see Doberman backpacks.

Scott: The really expensive ones will be the cats with wings. Look at that thing. If there are none of those in the future, I will vote for whoever these guys tell me to vote for.

Mike: I think we're looking at this all wrong. I'm pretty sure this is just an elaborate alternate reality game. Looking at the misspellings and the random numbers, when you divide it by the Fibonacci sequence or something, suddenly, you have the secrets of the SU and a new Nine Inch Nails album.

Conal: "In the future, one in three people will have drinkable water." Yeah, because the rest of it will be replaced by Coke under an exclusive contract.

Mike: This is what you voted for, my friends. See how reality unfolds?

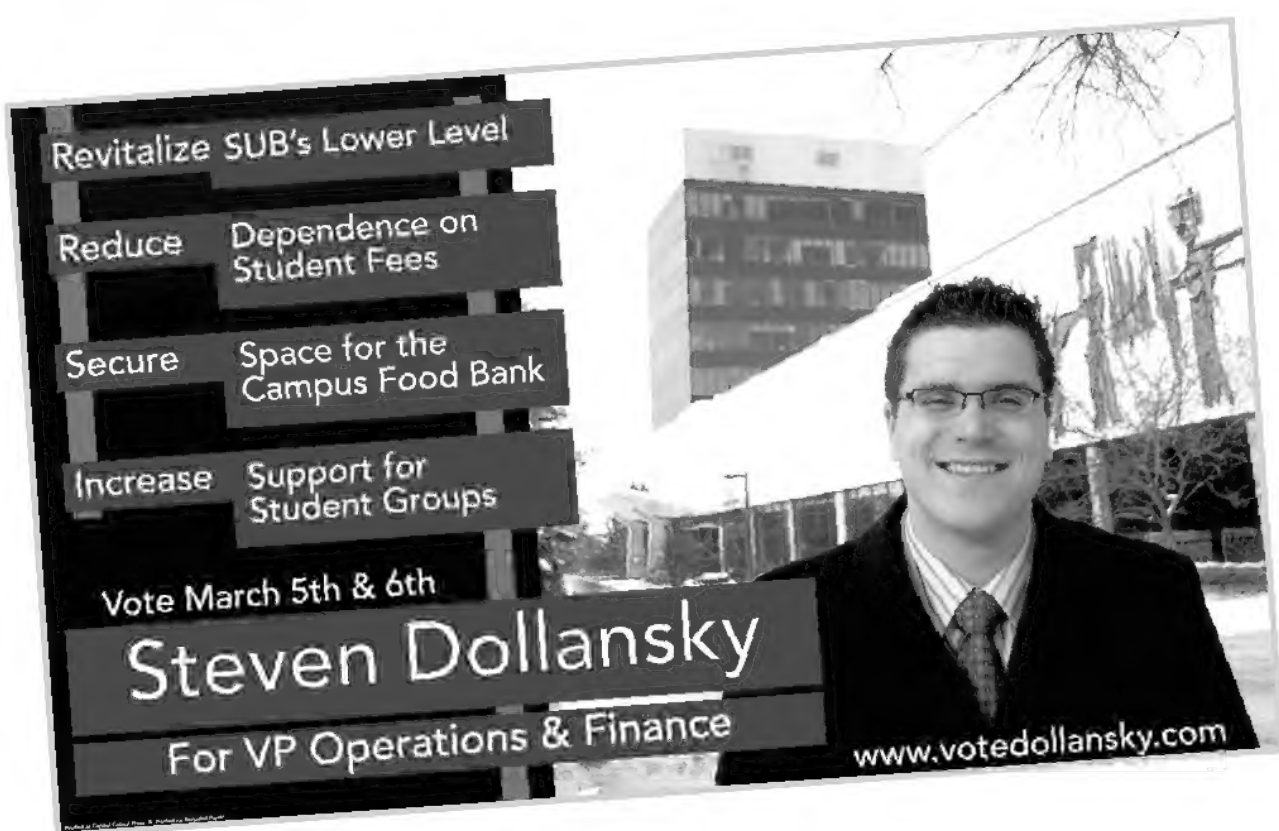
Conal: These are really half-assed. Actually, that's generous. These aren't even one third of an ass.

Mike: There's less effort put into these than there will be drinkable water.

Scott: In the future.

Conal: If it comes down to it, I'll strangle you for my water.

Scott: I don't know if that'll work because we'll both be "daed."



Mike: Remember guys, you neither of you will be able to pay for that water without Operations & Finance. So, let's move on to our next category and take a look at **Steven Dollansky**.

Conal: I don't think he's actually running for vice-president (Operations & Finance). I think he got a little confused, and this is actually his application for the job as the host of *Family Feud*. He's just showing what he looks like next to the board. "Survey says: Reduce dependence on student fees."

Scott: That's actually how he assembled his campaign. He asked 200 students, and these were the most popular answers before he got three Xs.

Mike: Unlike Tibbo, however, he actually managed to find his way outside of SUB. Those push/pull labels can get confusing.

Conal: I recognize it because of that really ugly artwork they nailed to the side of the building.

Scott: I've been going to this university for four years, and I don't know what the fuck that's supposed to be.

Conal: I think it was a construction accident where they just started welding shit to the building, and the foreman was like, "Whoa, what are you guys doing? The building's finished!"

Mike: The bones of one of the original workers are still trapped beneath one of those steel plates.

Scott: I'm pretty sure you're thinking of the Titanic.

Conal: Or Bio Sci.

Scott: They're not the same thing?

Mike: It's easy to make that mistake.

Scott: Compared to Dollansky's posters last year, it's good to see he's sticking to his MO: awkwardly shaped boxes with an offensive primary colour.

Conal: He's almost got a mafia smile, like he's saying, "Hey, how you doin'? Maybe you want to vote Dollansky, or maybe you want I should break your leg? I dunno, it depends on whether you want to walk tomorrow."

Mike: Isn't that how he got us into the whole CASA debacle to begin with?

Conal: I don't understand the space between the words on his poster, either.

Mike: He wants to secure space for the Campus Food Bank, but you could fit at least three boxes of macaroni into the gap between those words.

Conal: I think he means that the Campus Food Bank is going to become harder to break into than a Swiss bank. Armed guards, thumb print access. The entire works for a can of beans.

Mike: As for being full of beans, here's his opponent, **Peter Rychlik**.

Scott: If you want to be my VPOF, at least take the time to shave.

Conal: That's not stubble. It's just camera grain.

Mike: I think this was actually taken from a surveillance camera, and this is a wanted poster. This man is approaching people at urinals and accosting them to vote. This is the only clear shot that they could get of the guy.

Conal: If you know anything about this man, please contact Crime Stoppers.

Mike: You can't even walk into a Liquor Depot in this city any more without seeing this poster plastered on their bulletin board.

Conal: He's catching wise to Dustin Miller's campaign, too, and trying to cram even more brick tiles into his background.

Mike: I bet they'd get along great at a Linkin Park concert.

Conal: I think this might have been taken in a swimming pool's change room.

Scott: He's probably wearing his swim trunks in this photo. Looking at his campaign—"passionate," "tenacious," and

"progressive"—these are qualities that I'd want in a lifeguard. As a voter, I like what Peter Rich—Ratchet...

Conal: Rych-a-way-too-many-consonants. I'm counting that Y as a consonant.

Scott: You're not getting my vote until you give me an A.

Conal: "Rychalik." That's a name that I can get behind.

Scott: That's the kind of name that unites a former Soviet Bloc country.

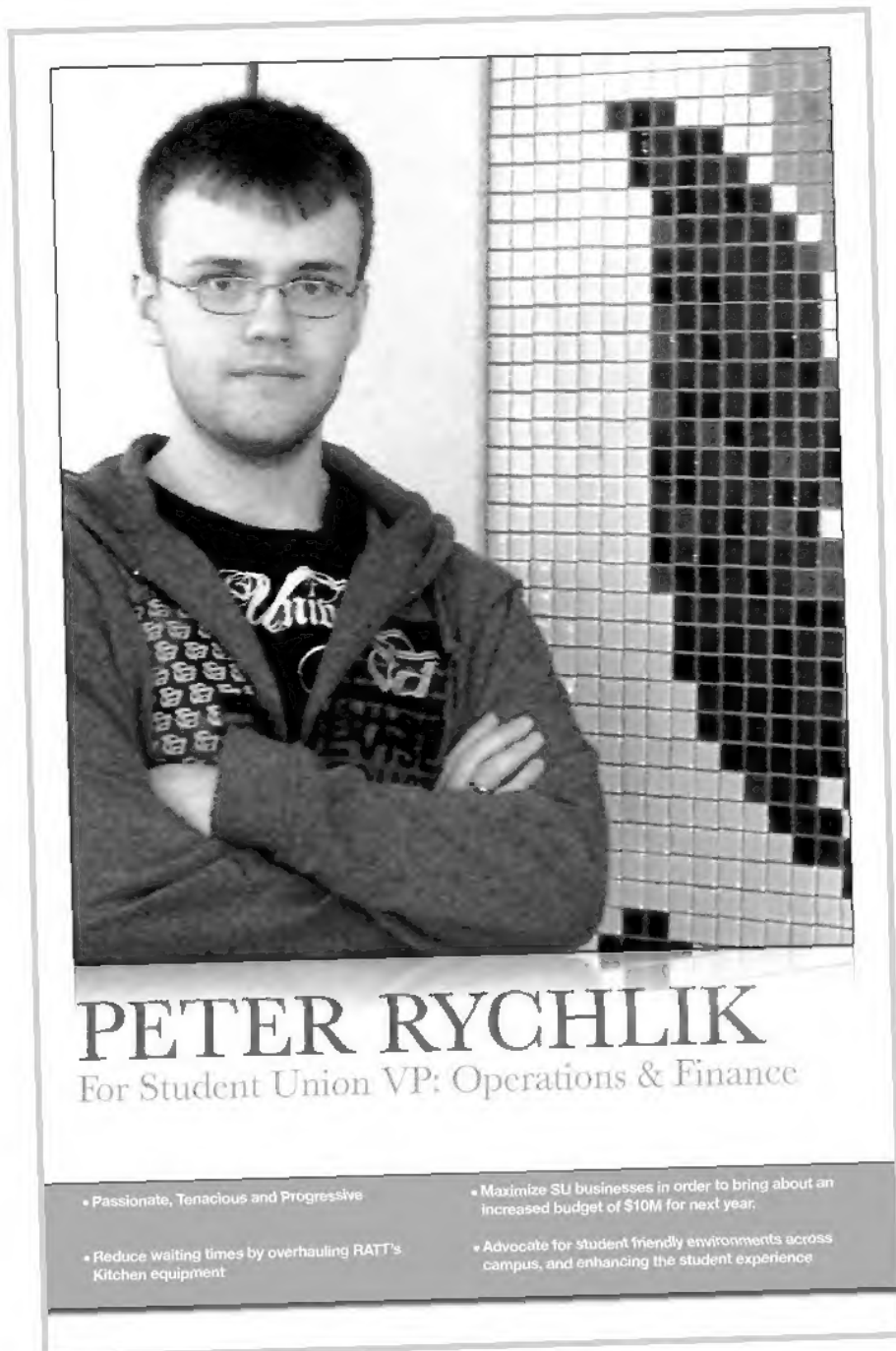
Conal: If his opponent Steven Doglansky can force his mouth up into what can be described as a smiling motion, then Peter Rychlik can afford to add an A to his name.

Scott: It's the very least he can do.

Conal: I also like how he thinks the problems with RATT are due to old equipment. It has nothing to do with the fact that they only ever have one server on.

Mike: Though I'm sure it doesn't help that she keeps going into the kitchen and kicking all the equipment.

Scott: I've never actually seen the back of RATT. They could have a wood-burning stove.



"Whereas Janelle's poster is what it looks like when you're hung over in the morning, Dustin's is what it looks like when you've been punched in the eye and every blood vessel has burst."



Mike: Let's not get too down-trodden about the SU because **Matt Trodden**, our first VP (External) candidate, is up next.

Conal: It looks like he got a rubber stamp made of himself and slapped it down on these posters.

Mike: That's a really good idea. If I worked at the DMV and I had a winning smile like this guy, I wouldn't want a "rejected" stamp. I'd just get a stamp of my face, and slap that down every time another 16-year-old got his Class 5.

Scott: I think he probably spent most of his campaign budget

paying traditional Japanese artists to do a woodcut of his face.

Conal: That's why he couldn't afford to put his last name on his posters. I don't think he's ever voted before. The SU doesn't use check marks. You fill in the circle.

Mike: Maybe someone just had blood all over their hand, and they just smeared it across the page to vote.

Scott: Psychopaths love Matt!

Conal: He probably didn't put his last name because he was afraid of that guy. He was at the SU Print Center and had everything laid out, and some crazy hobo with a cut on his hand just rushes him and smears that check mark onto his poster before he could hit the copy button.

Scott: There's probably some psychotic stalker out there with a rat-hole apartment, and he just has this picture clipped out and pasted on his wall—300 times.

Conal: He couldn't even bother to spell out what he's running for. He's VP-Ex, and tuition, textbooks, housing. I don't know what that means.

Scott: This man doesn't waste time on verbs.

Conal: He doesn't even say what he's going to do about them.

Scott: "I am aware that these things exist."

Conal: I guess I could find out more information by going to his Facebook group, or his Freewebs page. But you can't click on anything without an animated graphic of his face popping up under your cursor.

Mike: And the M-A-T-T trails behind your cursor as you move it around the screen.

Conal: Textbooks! Students! Vote Matt! I think a vote for Matt is a vote for the caveman.

Mike: I don't even know how to segue from that. So let's just move on to his opponent, **Beverly Eastham**. My problem here is that it's a good photo of her, but frankly, I expected more out of a design student.

Conal: You mean, more than turquoise and teal?

Scott: Seeing that she's encouraging education evolution, I think it would be funny if she and Tibbo got together. You could make a sitcom out of that!

Mike: So which one is Jack Lemmon?

Conal: I think it's Beverly. She knows how to put on a scarf, while he can barely put on a lanyard.

Mike: She's going for the same effect as Janelle, with no time for sentences. Engage, ensure, improve, involve!

Conal: But she's one of those morning people that pisses you off by being so chipper at 8am.

Scott: She got up early enough to take a walk through a forest for this photo.

Conal: Actually, I think that's HUB in the background. I can smell the Chinese food.

Mike: Design-wise, at least she's trying to offset all the white near the bottom of the poster with her blindingly bright smile.

Conal: Now I can't stop staring at her teeth. Once you notice them, that's all you can see.

Mike: I think we have to get this poster off the table and move on to **John Braga**, our first candidate for VP (Academic).

Conal: He's going for the fake reading pose. You'd find him in the stacks, and he'd say, "Oh, you found me reading my favourite book!" Then he'd turn it around, and it'd be organic chemistry or something.

Scott: "I was just reading *Finnegans Wake*."

Conal: He's demonstrating he's an academic by being in a library, and yet he can't spell "enhance."

Mike: He's "enchancing" academic resources. Conal: It's a buzz word that he came up with on the campaign trail. Is he making books come to life with a magic wand? It's like *The Indian in the Cupboard*.

Mike: That movie scared the hell out of me.

Scott: It looks like he's going for the Macaulay Culkin look from *The Pagemaster*.

Mike: Actually, I think this photo was taken in Snape's dungeon.

Conal: With a window to the outside? It's one of those above-ground dungeons.

Mike: How else is he going to watch the Quidditch match from potions class?

Conal: I think he'll use enchancing to empower faculty associations, too, by summoning magic armor or something.

Scott: That white T-shirt makes him look like a greaser from a 1950s teen movie.

Conal: He should have a pack of smokes tucked under the sleeve, but his mom forced him to wear the sweater vest. Don't be fooled, though. This guy carries a switchblade.

Scott: I think he'd do much better running for VP (Reading Rainbow).

Conal: VP (Children's Stories).

Scott: VP (Creepy Library Guy).

Conal: VP (Magic). The Academic position was open, and he asked CRO Craig Turner what the portfolio had to do with magic, and Craig just told him that he could enchance things. He was sold.

Mike: Speaking of not understanding the portfolio of the position you're applying for, here's **Bryant Lukes**.

Scott: Oh my God, these are actually worse than last year.

Conal: Bryant Lukes looks like a guy who just walked out of the wilderness after being lost for 15 days.

Mike: Judging by the patchiness of his beard, I'd say it's closer to four.

Conal: But he's already eaten the guy that he went into the woods with—because he was hungry.

Mike: "But Bryant, I brought turkey dogs! There's enough for the both of us! You don't have to eat me!"

Conal: "I need somewhere to sleep, or I'll freeze to death!" Then he cuts the guy open like a tauntaun and stays warm until Obi-Wan Kenobi tells him to go save the environment. What's worse is that this poster looks like somebody just pissed through a stencil onto this portrait to form all the text.

Mike: I hear there's an internet fetish for that kind of thing.

Scott: He wants to spend all of our money on a model of Harvard. There'll be little trains zipping around it.

Mike: And finally, all of Janelle's tiny conga dancers will have a place to live.

Conal: I'm not sure what "Teacher Evaluations Five. Ten to Fifteen Years in the Future" is supposed to mean.

Mike: I think he's creating a five-part series called *Teacher Evaluations*. Part five will be ready in ten to fifteen years.

Unfortunately, it won't be quite as successful as *Teacher Evaluations 2: Electric Boogaloo*.

Scott: What good are these evaluations 10-15 years in the future?

Conal: Well, if they're bad, the future tells us that they'll be daed. Along with their cats and dogs.

Mike: Isn't "teacher" a word you grow out of after your first year of University anyways? I know at this point, I'm on a first-name basis with my profs when I go out for beers with them.

Conal: To be fair, I went out for beers with my teachers in high school.

Scott: Until they went to jail.

Conal: My major problem with Bryant Lukes is he doesn't seem like a guy who would support Toilet Duck.

Scott: What the fuck does that even mean?

Conal: It just seems like you'd have Toilet Duck because you want a fresher bowl, you know, because it cleans with every flush. And he comes into your house and judges you on it because you're poisoning the environment, and you're the reason the wetlands are shrinking. If the cost of Toilet Duck is that regular ducks' eggs get softer, I can live with that.

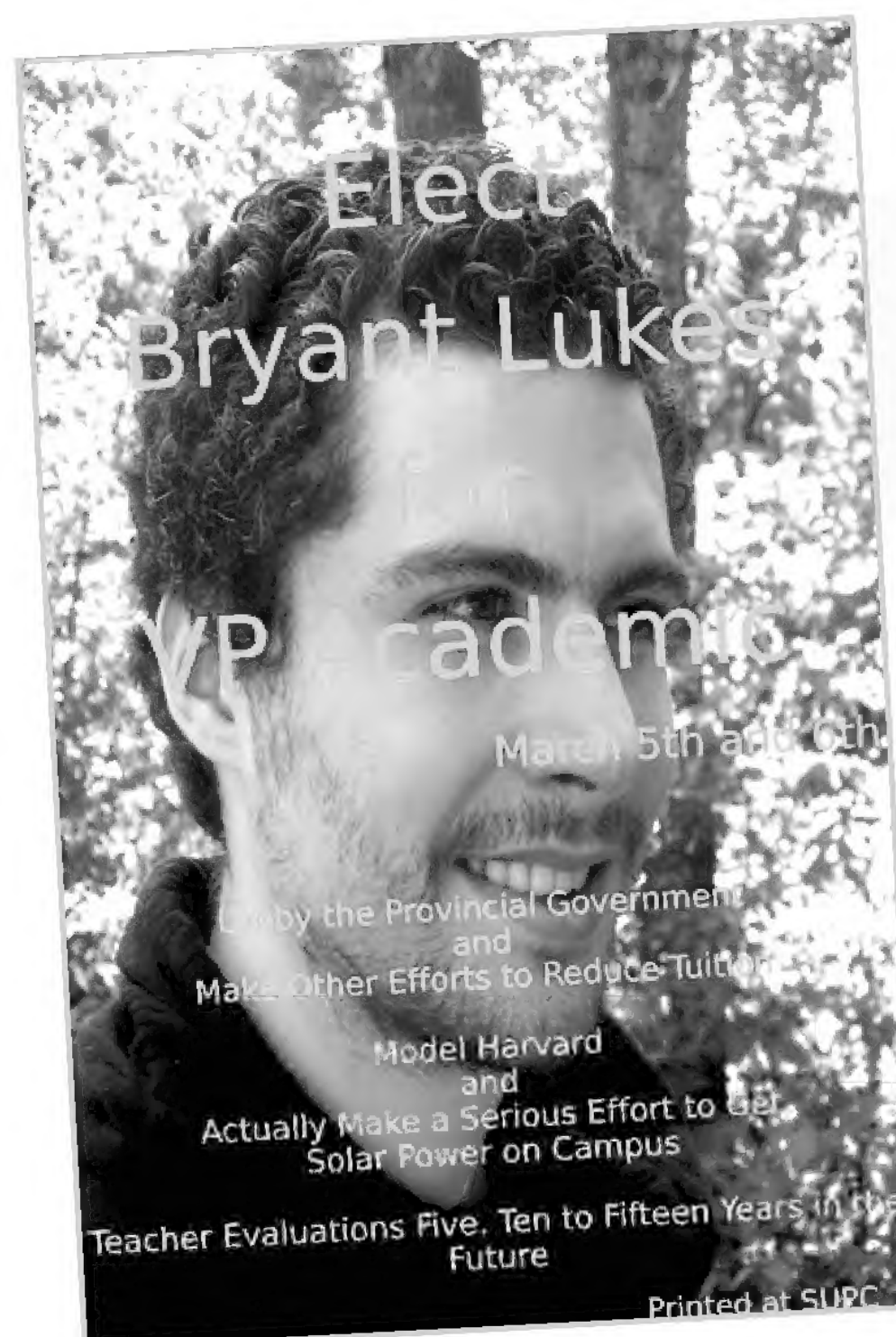
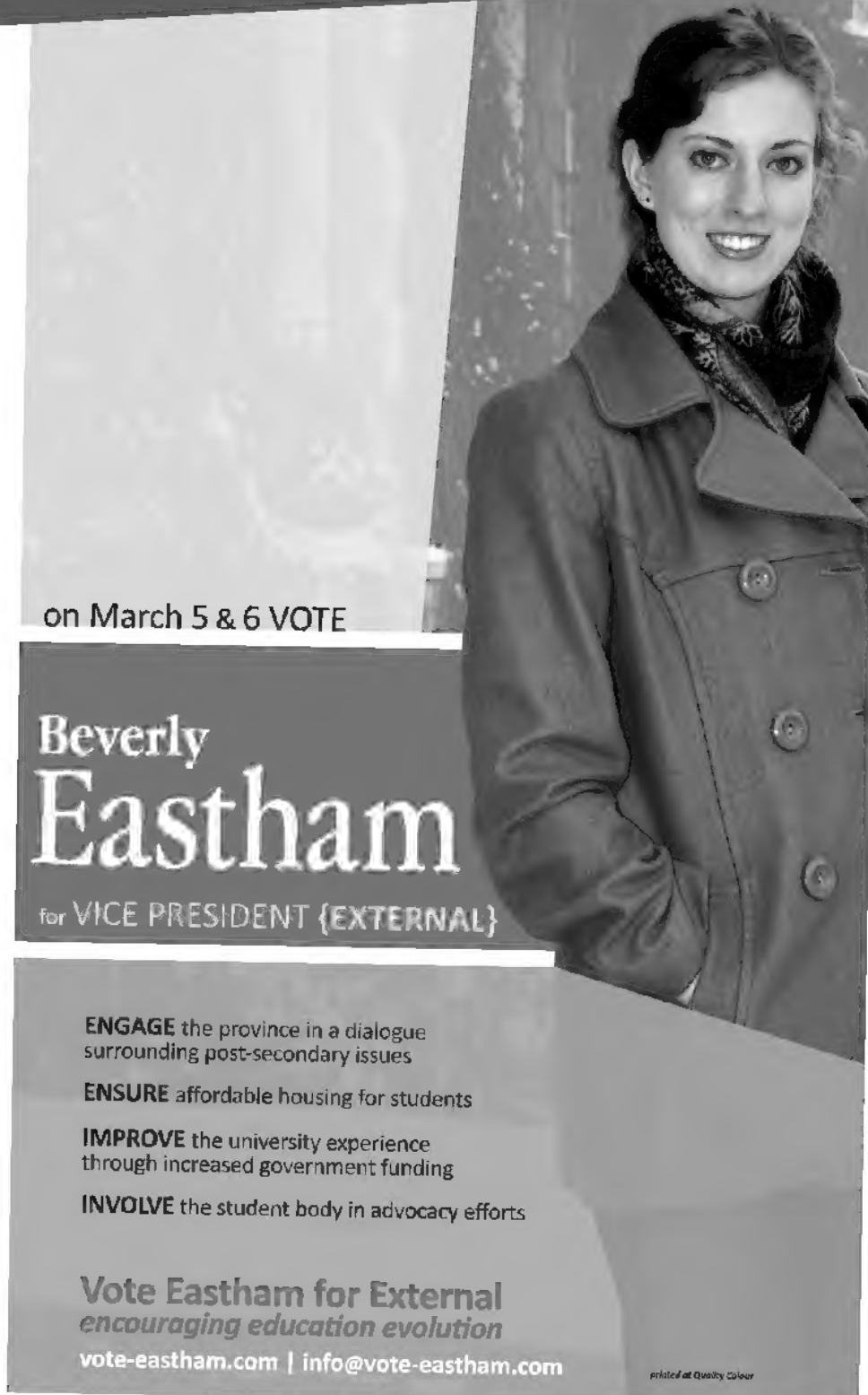
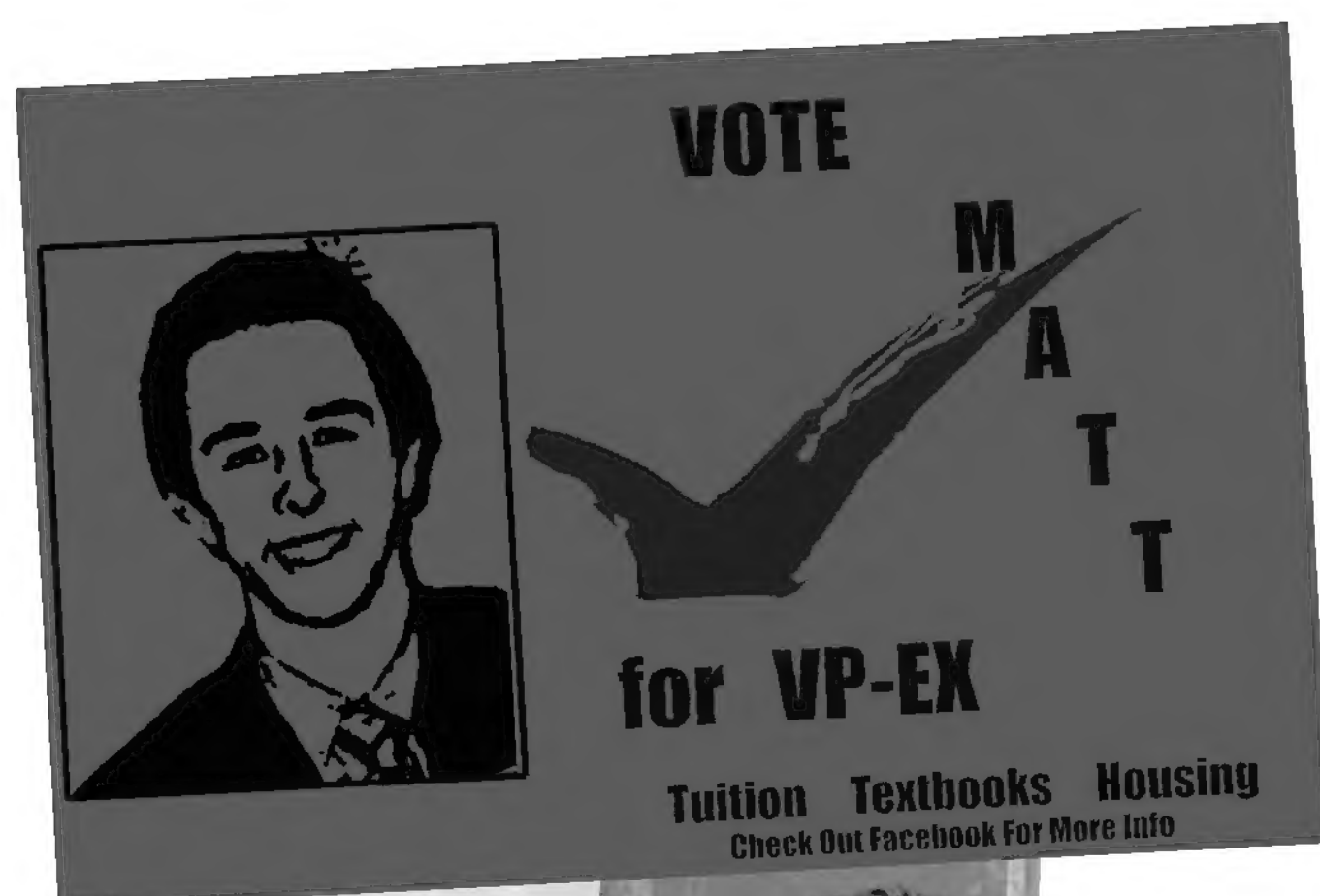
Scott: I'm just really underwhelmed by his beard.

Mike: Maybe he's trying to run a carbon-neutral campaign, up to and including his solar-powered razor. It was cloudy today, so he only finished half the job before the juice ran out.

Mike: While we're in a carbon-neutral mood, let's take a look at **Alena Manera's** take on the VP (Student Life) portfolio.

Conal: I think she fancies herself as some kind of Dorothy figure, as demonstrated by the yellow brick road on her poster. It's apparently under construction right now.

Mike: The British are building from one side, and the French from another.



## "My major problem with Bryant Lukes is he doesn't seem like a guy who would support Toilet Duck."

Conal: And when they finally meet up, they can force those midgets into Munchkinland where they belong.

Mike: I hear they're facing some major opposition from the Lollipop Guild, which has been on strike for the past three months.

Conal: Apparently, the tile-cleaning guild is on strike, too. She just found the scummiest basement possible and took her picture in front of what I think is the spitting wall.

Scott: So, white on bright yellow. Not a good way to go.

Mike: I think her and the/future might be



in cahoots. If you look closely, there's a hidden message printed in pale yellow.

**Conal:** No, that just says, "Drink your Ovaltine."

**Scott:** She wants to make SU events carbon-neutral.

**Conal:** I think Bryant Lukes started a snowball effect last year, where people suddenly think that after the 25 votes he got, people care about their carbon footprints. I don't care if you buy wind power to drive to school in a Hummer. If you want to use wind power, why not just hang-glide to school?

**Mike:** Well, I know I'm powering my rocket ship with corn these days.

**Mike:** That said, I'm curious what **Sean Mcquillan** is fuelling his ego with.

**Conal:** That shirt says he's a party boy. He's got the top few buttons undone to show just the slightest bit of chest hair, to let you know that he's kind of a d-bag.

**Mike:** I'm surprised that this poster doesn't smell like Axe body spray and Aqua Velva at the same time.

**Scott:** I've always wondered what my student government representatives would look like when viewed through a kaleidoscope, and he's taken all the work out of it.

**Conal:** At least he's willing to petition ETS for extended service hours, so after he's done his 13 Jagerbombs at Hudson's, he can hop on a bus at 2am and make it back to the west end. His health service options don't hurt either, for the plethora of STDs he's likely to contract just from being in that place.

**Mike:** The more I look at it, the more it's actually hurting my eyes to stare at his shirt. I think I'm being pulled into the Matrix.

**Conal:** He has 500 shirts just like it, too.

**Mike:** You open up his closet, and it's like Bart Simpson, or Doug. It's the same thing, lined up.

**Scott:** He kind of looks like the lovechild of Steven Dollansky and Michael Janz.

**Conal:** I don't get what campus-wide events would be. Is it just a large game of tag? Campus is a huge area to hold just one event on.

**Scott:** Maybe he meant campus wide-events.

**Mike:** I'm sick and tired of all the narrow events on campus. Sean Mcquillan wins the fat vote in 2008.

**Conal:** What's he going to transform the current student group office space into?

**Scott:** A semi-truck? Also, his blatant disregard for the rules of capitalization bother me to no end.

**Conal:** He'll capitalize wherever he wants.

**Mike:** **Kristen Flath** is capitalizing on her dental hygiene.

**Conal:** This girl has the winning smile of somebody who's just put in a fresh Toilet Duck.

**Scott:** She's got my vote. With a smile that wide, she's probably the only candidate who can fit four billiard balls in her mouth.

**Conal:** But she's engaged, boys, so back off. And committed. And ethical. Those are three qualities you don't look for in a floozy. She's way out of Sean Mcquillan's league.

**Mike:** At least she avoids the tongue-twister of Rychlik's name, and throws it at you quickly. FLATH!

## Bryant Lukes is he doesn't support Toilet Duck."

**Conal:** It sounds like a super hero with a lisp. The Flath ith very fatht.

**Mike:** Today, on the Juthth League! Thuperman and the Flath take on the Thinthier Thix!

**Conal:** I don't know what her alternatives to styrofoam would be, though. I guess we could go back to lead.

**Scott:** It worked for the Romans.

**Conal:** It almost worked for the Chinese manufacturing industry. So what if a child puts a lead toy in his mouth and it makes him a bit special? At least they won't be crushingly depressed by our terrible future where only one in three of them can have drinking water. They'll be too

busy throwing ice cubes at the sun to cure global warming.

**Scott:** The poster also doesn't get across how short she really is.

**Conal:** She could probably curl up and fit into the actual area of the paper that it's printed on.

**Mike:** She's been one of Janelle's key supporters throughout the campaign.

**Conal:** I agree with her point that we need more training for student groups. If not skilled training, then at least sensitivity training so that they would reject me less harshly. Fucking dance team.

**Scott:** She's also going to foster the community through orientation and programming.

**Conal:** I assume that means brainwashing. This optional health plan gets me too. I know it's one of those things that I'll probably opt out of to save 25 bucks, and that'll be the day that I just horribly nail my hand to my desk. I'm blaming Kristen Flath for allowing me to opt out from something that would protect me.

**Conal:** And finally, we have our beloved SU President, **Michael Janz**, running for BoG rep.

**Mike:** I think the record should state that in the version of the poster supplied to us, someone has drawn a Hitler-esque moustache on him. And I think it looks pretty sharp.

**Conal:** He's like chubby Hitler. This is like a 1940s cartoon strip. Just a little fat caricature, bumbling around with Donald Duck.

**Scott:** Knowing Michael Janz, I think having him stare off into empty space is as apt as one could get.

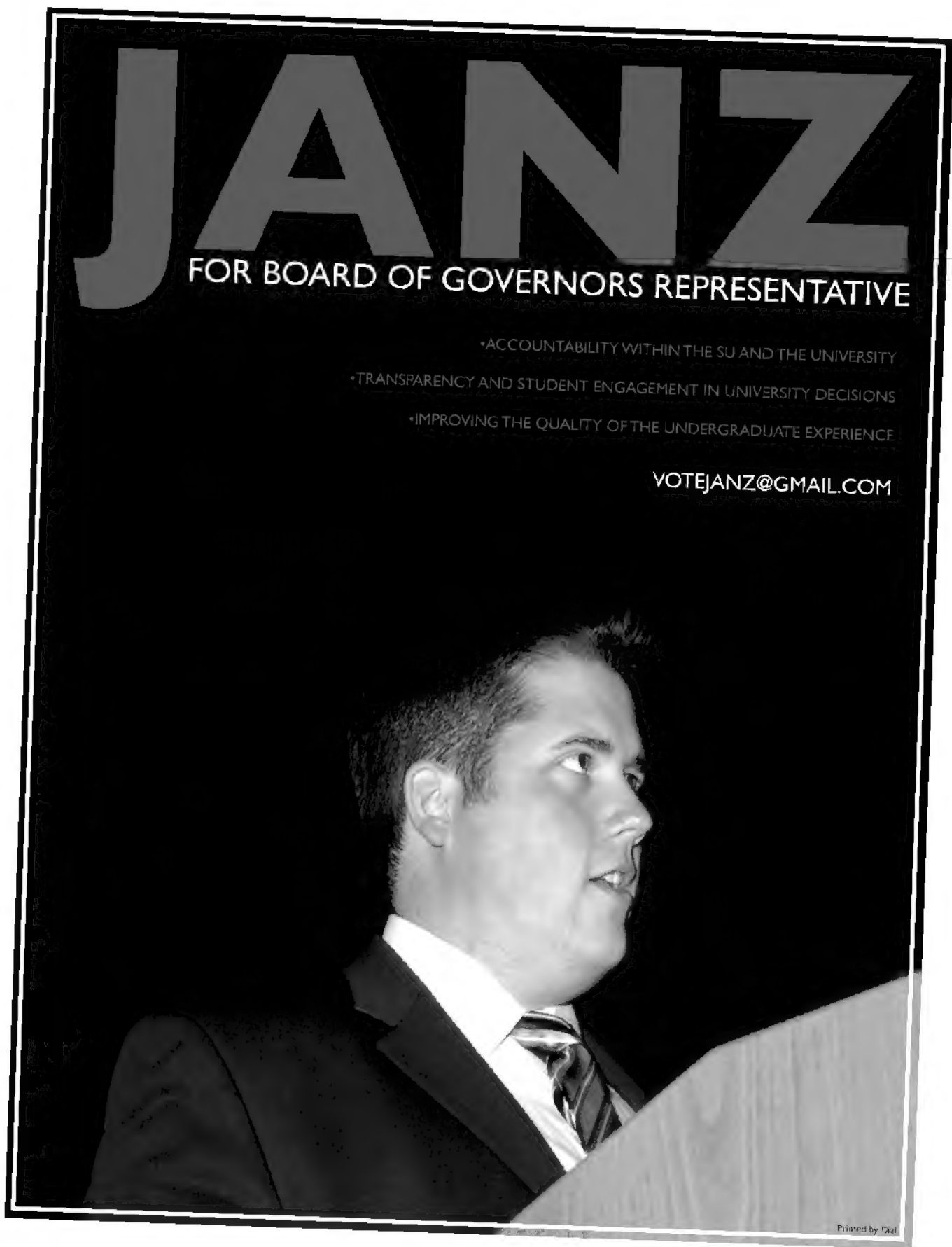
**Conal:** I don't get what this transparency thing is all about, either. Everyone has it on their poster. Are they building a Hollow Man? If the movie with Kevin Bacon is any indication, that's a bad idea.

**Mike:** We should figure out if Michael Janz is within six degrees of separation from Kevin Bacon.

**Conal:** I know that he's within one degree of separation from actual bacon.



"Knowing Michael Janz, I think having him stare off into empty space is as apt as one could get."



And here we reach the end of our journey. There were smiles; there were tears; there were 2000 flushes of sanitary freshness. From a deliberation session shorter than a list of the VP (Student Life)'s responsibilities, here are our picks on this year's best and worst posters:

- Best overall poster: **Michael Janz**
- Worst overall poster: **Bryant Lukes**
- Best use of consonants: **Peter Rychlik**
- Worst use of the letter Q: **Bobby Samuel**
- Best use of an invented word: **John Braga**
- Worst timing for a photograph: **Janelle Morin**
- Best allusion to American History X: **Dustin Miller**
- Best Louis Anderson impression: **Steven Dollansky**
- Cheapest highballs: **Sean McQuillan**



## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days

Opens 7 March  
Starring Anamaria Marinca and Laura Vasiliu  
Princess Theatre (10377 82 avenue)

Released to universal critical acclaim, this Romanian film captured the elusive Palme d'Or at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival and currently has a rating of 97 on Metacritic, giving it the fifth-highest score ever. In only his second feature film, director Cristian Mungiu tells the emotionally gut-wrenching story of two students living in Bucharest, Romania in 1987, during the twilight years of Ceausescu's communist dictatorship.

After one of the girls becomes pregnant, they organize an illegal abortion in an era where the Romanian government authoritatively enforced childbirth as a way to strengthen their country and economy.

PDB Bach: The Vegas Years

by Peter Schickele  
Runs 7-8 March at 8pm  
Winspear Centre (4 Sir Winston Churchill Square)

The 21st of Johann Sebastian Bach's 20 sons, PDQ Bach was a forgotten musical outcast of one of the most prestigious musical lineages ever. An apprentice to the inventor of the musical saw, in 1756 PDQ met with Leopold Mozart and urged him to teach his gifted son Wolfgang Amadeus how to play billiards. Renowned for wanton musical plagiarism, Bach is known for some of the most inept compositions in history and is, in fact, a fictitious, satirical creation of music professor Peter Schickele.

But true or not, this series sees a "reproduction" of PDQ's music during his years in Sin City, making one of the most humorous orchestral shows you'll see anywhere.

Golden Key Charity Concert

Saturday, 8 March at 7pm  
The Pawn Shop (10549 82 avenue)

The University of Alberta Golden Key society is holding a benefit concert in support of USC Canada, a nationwide charity that helps provide food security and promote human rights in third world countries. Featuring five local bands of the rock and metal variety who donated their time and effort for free to the show, all proceeds go towards USC donations.

Tzadeka CD Release Party

With Corvid Lorax and People's Poets  
Friday, 7 March at 8pm  
Velvet Underground (1003 102 street)

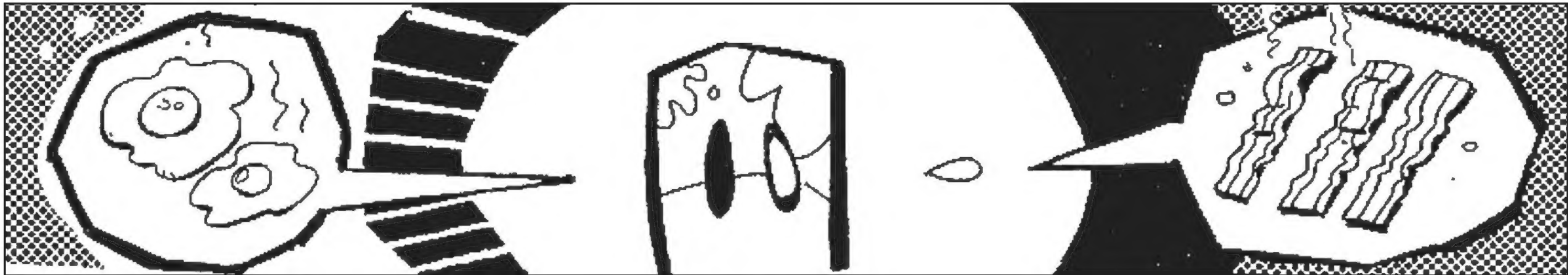
Also known as Solar Warrior from the Edmonton rap collective Eshod Ibn Wyza, MC Maigan van der Giessan releases her solo album under the guise of Tzadeka at this show in the Velvet Underground. Taking a different direction than her group's rap-influenced path, Tzadeka sounds like old-school '50s jazz singing, Billie Holiday-style, mixed with elements of hip hop and reggae.

Steve Earle

With Alison Moorer  
Wednesday, 12 March at 6:30 pm  
Jubilee Auditorium

Now recognized more for his ardent political vocals and activism than his previous problems with drug use and the law, Steve Earle embodies down-home American folk rock as much as Bruce Springsteen, despite staying considerably more low-key. The two-time Grammy-winner has led a storied three-decade career and, in recent years, has been one of the music business' most vocal opponents of the Bush administration. Such sentiments continue on his latest release, *Washington Square Serenade*.

JOHN KMECH  
He knows the capital of Thailand all too well



# Back from beyond the expiry date

Four years after he got a serious case of creative burnout, Rob Schrab's resurrected his cult hit *Scud the Disposable Assassin*—though not every fan has welcomed the robot's return

TYSON DURST  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

*Scud The Disposable Assassin*, an independent comic book created by Rob Schrab, captured a loyal following way back in 1994, publishing 20 issues and even a couple of spinoff titles over four years. Then the comic disappeared, leaving fans wondering when or if it would ever return.

Ten years later, Schrab is back to finish his cult hit with issue 21 of *Scud The Disposable Assassin*. The story takes place in a comically absurd future where people can buy assassin robots out of vending machines to do their bidding. When they kill their programmed target, they self-destruct. The titular assassin, however, has self-preservation on the mind.

"I'm doing this mostly for myself because I hate walking away from anything, and I hate quitting stuff, to a fault. With *Scud*, at the time, it was something I was working really hard on, and I wasn't really getting the same joy out of it that I did when I was first working on it," recalls Schrab, who now resides in LA.

Trying to make a small publishing company work, along with getting a couple of *Scud* video games on the Sega Saturn and PC, began to eat into Schrab's creative time and energies, eventually leading to a burnout that would put the comic on hold.

"It was a weird time. I never really wanted to be a businessman. I only wanted to draw and create," he says. "I found myself dealing with more things like the video game, and it was taking time away from the comic book. I was trying to make things easier on me by having more spinoffs come out like

*La Cosa Nostroid* and *Tales From the Vending Machine*. I thought, 'Oh, this'll fill up the gaps in between books, and maybe I can spend more time on these books and make them better.' But it just made more work for me because even when I did get artists and writers that I really liked, I did have to oversee them, and it gave me more uncreative work to do."

"I'm doing this mostly for myself because I hate walking away from anything, and I hate quitting stuff, to a fault."

ROB SCHRAB  
SCUD CREATOR

Since putting his comic career on hold, Schrab has been working in Hollywood on various TV and movie projects with many high profile talents and companies. Coming back to finish *Scud the Disposable Assassin*, he's painfully aware that some of his harshest critics may be former readers.

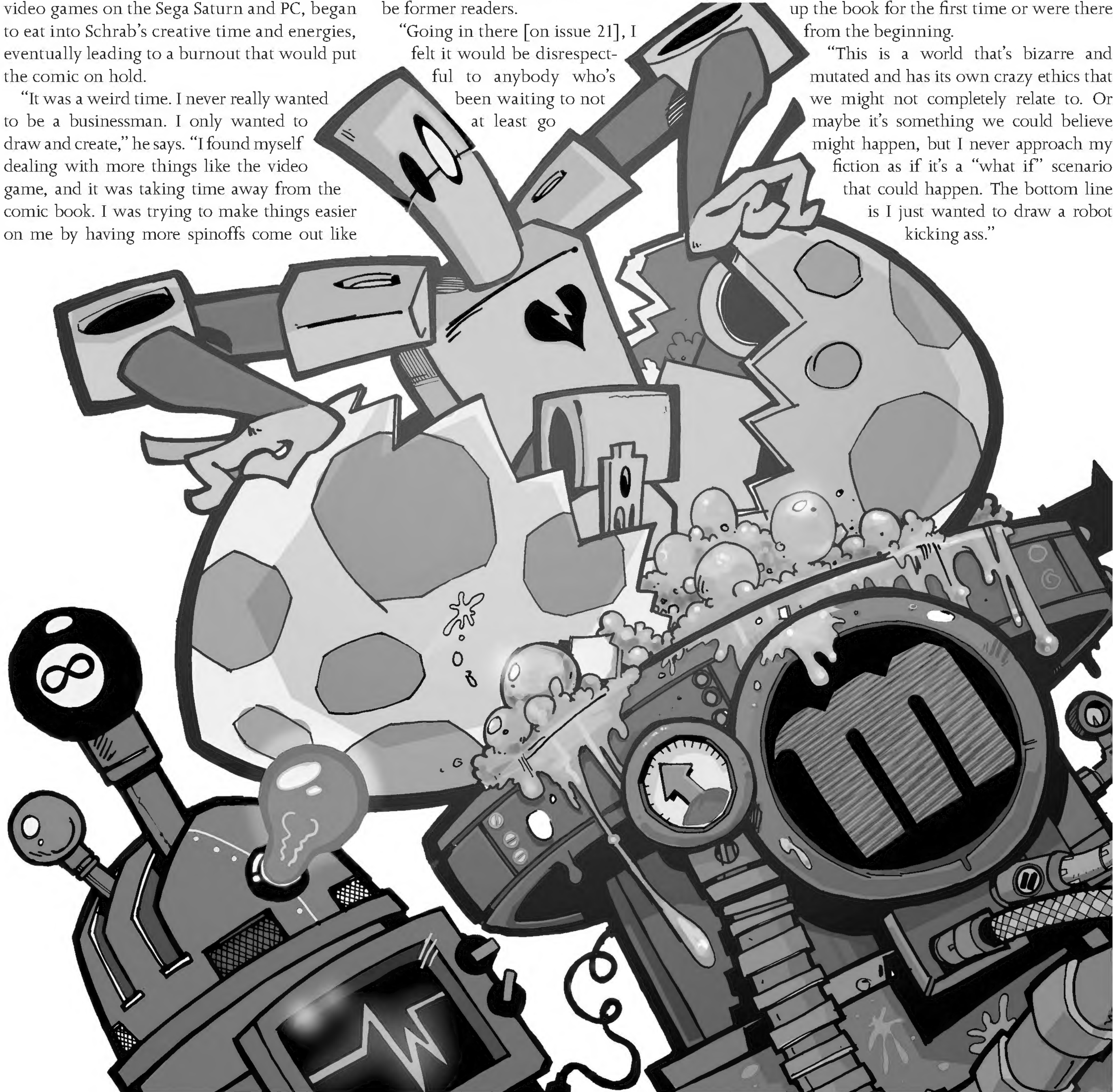
"Going in there [on issue 21], I felt it would be disrespectful to anybody who's been waiting to not at least go

'Hey, I understand. You have every right to hate me and the book.' I was googling 'Scud 21' to look and see if anybody was liking it, and I was getting lots of really great feedback about it. But then I found this one review that just tore it to shreds. It really bummed me out because this guy was just: 'This is drawn horribly, and Schrab's really let himself go; who cares? I let go of Scud long ago,' and I was just like, 'Wow.'"

"There was just so much venom there that I realized that I really hurt and pissed off a lot of people, and I don't blame them. In issue 21, Scud actually looks almost right at the fourth wall like, 'I don't know how I'm going to do it, but I promise I'll make it up to you.' And that was the goal: to try as hard as I could to make it up."

Four new and final issues of *Scud* are being published to complete the saga, accompanied by guest covers drawn by renowned artists Ashley Wood, Jim Mahfood, David Hartman, and Doug Tennapel. On top of the new issues, an omnibus edition is due out this summer, collecting the entire *Scud* series. Considering this news, Schrab is off to a solid start delivering on that promise to fans, whether they're picking up the book for the first time or were there from the beginning.

"This is a world that's bizarre and mutated and has its own crazy ethics that we might not completely relate to. Or maybe it's something we could believe might happen, but I never approach my fiction as if it's a "what if" scenario that could happen. The bottom line is I just wanted to draw a robot kicking ass."







# Aligning the bodily orbits

The Expanse Movement Arts Festival takes to the stage—and the streets—to make audience and performer alike comfortable with the ‘elitist’ art of dance

## dancepreview

### Expanse Movement Arts Festival

Runs 6-9 March  
Catalyst Theatre (8529 Gateway Boulevard)

KATHLEEN BELL  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

“The police didn’t get involved, which is always good,” assures Amber Borotsik, organizer for the annual Expanse Movement Arts Festival. An artist in her own right, Borotsik runs workshops in conjunction with the festival, one of which involves random acts of dance at top-secret locations. This last Saturday took them down Whyte Avenue with a skip, hop, and boogie-woogie in their step.

“We wanted to interact with the public in a totally open way, so there weren’t people who knew there was a performance that was going to be happening, which makes it harder for us and more nerve-racking,” Borotsik says. “But we wanted to go for it. We ran into some really awesome kids on the Ave who totally just went with us and went for it.”

Borotsik is quick to admit there wasn’t much chance of police

intervention, as the group wasn’t particularly threatening. But that’s the point of Expanse—creating a comfortable place for people, with or without experience, to enjoy movement in whatever form. The festival was originally called the Expanse New Works Dance Festival, but they changed the name to capture the variety of programming and to better characterize the festival’s mission.

“Our mandate is to connect audiences and artists from diverse disciplines,” Borotsik explains.

The result is this year’s collection of works, including everything from a tango on the trapeze performed by Annie Dugan of Firefly Theatre to Kathy Ochoa’s improvised, multimedia experience, *My Heart is a Pioneer*. Ochoa’s piece involves a video installation in the lobby of the theatre, which also incorporates live music and electronic beats. Over four days, and with the help of artists coming from as far away as Austria and Yellowknife, Borotsik hopes to bring an intimacy and communal feel to a genre of dance that’s often thought of as elitist.

“Contemporary dance sometimes has a reputation that it’s difficult, it’s not accessible, but I totally disagree with that. And we really work hard to create a really informal, fun atmosphere.”

The biggest contributing factor to that atmosphere is the venue—it’s

small. But the festival has moved from Azimuth Theatre to Catalyst Theatre this year because the stage at Azimuth can only be described as really, *really* small. Which, when it comes to dance, can get a little dangerous.

“The ceiling’s really low. We had a piece, maybe last year—it was two guys, and they were both 6’2”. If they really jumped, if they really leaped high, they could hit their head on the lights. So we thought, ‘Okay, maybe now we’re ready [to move].’”

As a result, the festival is moving out so that they don’t have to worry when they move on up. But keeping the festival intimate is still a priority.

“For me, I love watching movement up close because you can’t hide anything,” Borotsik says. “The audience sees everything. So they see that weird little tendon that’s kinda vibrating in your leg. You just get a chance to see dance from a totally different perspective. That, for me, was one of the of the coolest things about doing it at the Azimuth, which is a really nice thing about moving to the Catalyst Theatre space. Because Catalyst isn’t huge either—it’s just big enough.”

It took over a year and a half to plan the 2008 festival, but when it comes to audience response, Borotsik’s has a pretty simple barometer of success.

“I hope they come and have a really kickass time.”

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ONE *Message...*  
ONE *Week...*



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# Mericana flying higher than an eagle

The ex-Murder City Sparrows guitarist is migrating down a new musical path

## musicpreview

### Jonny Mericana

With Jay Gilday  
Friday, 7 March at 8pm  
Axis Cafe Metro Room (10349 Jasper Avenue)

SEAN STEELS  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Jonny Mericana is in a period of transformation and, in a way, instability.

You may remember him as the talented ex-guitarist of the well-known Edmonton band Murder City Sparrows. Normally, pushing the eject button on a rising act would leave a musician dejected, but Mericana doesn't regret the decision. The group's popularity was escalating, but that also meant an increased level of commitment from its members. He talks about his departure from the Sparrows and his new opportunities with chipper enthusiasm.

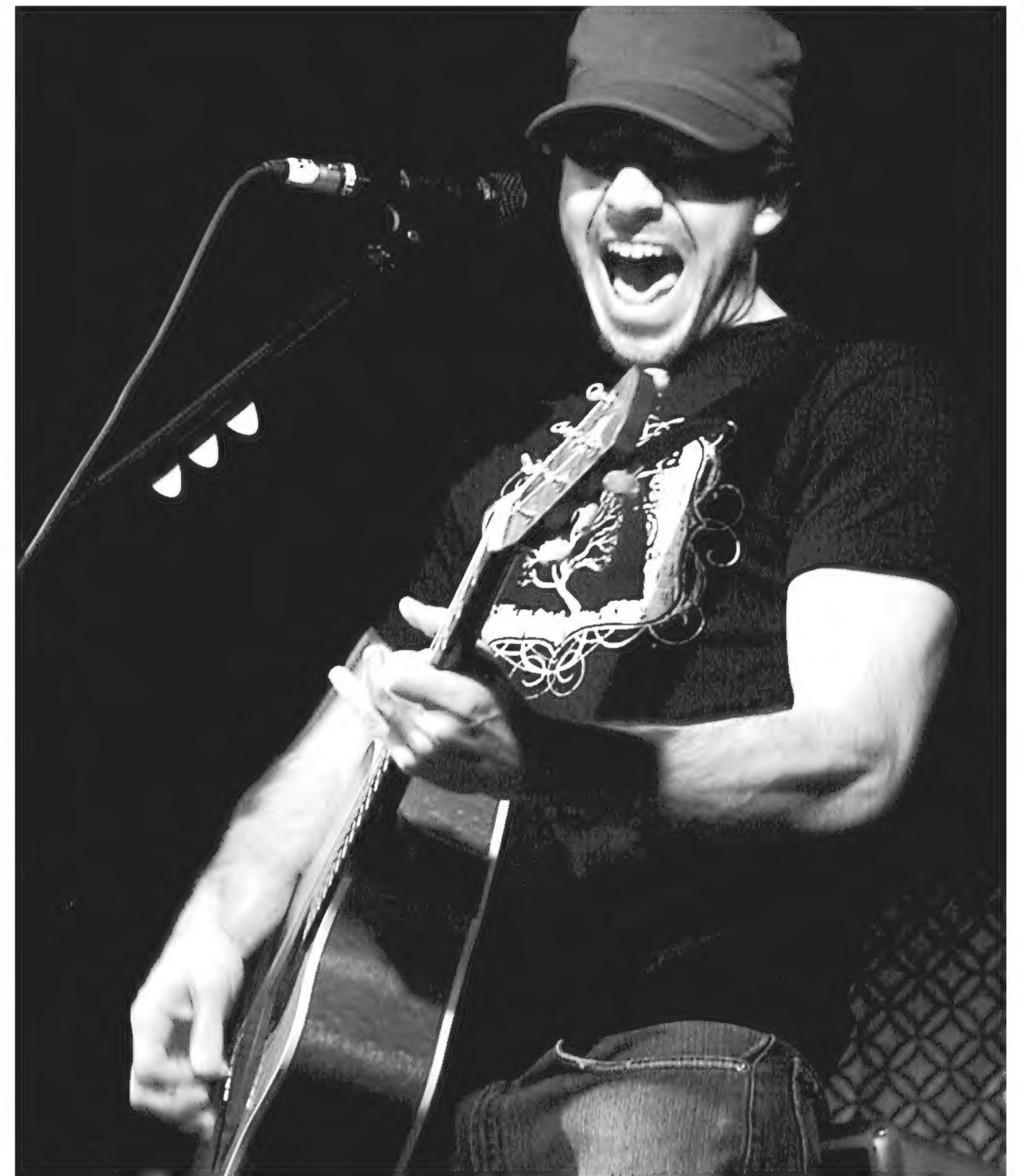
"I just wasn't 100-per-cent on board anymore, and at that point with that band, I felt I really needed to be," he explains. "At one point, I just made a decision that I was holding them back."

But this departure, far from ending his musical career, has launched it into a demanding, transient, and artistically free state—though that isn't to say he doesn't sometimes struggle with the loneliness and demanding nature of starting a solo project.

"Starting over now is a challenge. I'm not from Edmonton, and my whole life up until the time I left the group was completely the band," he says.

With nothing but spare time outside of music, Mericana has taken his newfound creative freedom and focused his energy on a sound his old fans might not have expected from him. The change began when he picked up his acoustic and took off to the folk music circuit to play for Melissa Majeau.

"Completely entering a different live music venue and doing the folk festivals was a lot of work to get up to



speed, but it helped me start over, start fresh," Mericana explains.

He admits that by the time his debut solo album rolls around, the acoustic performances currently dominating his schedule will become less and less frequent. But that experience hasn't been without its positives. The change has given him a chance to test himself and his songwriting ability on a different, more challenging stage, and to move at his own pace through the evolution of his new group, Mericana.

"[The solo performances] are something I'd like to do once in a while, but it's more transitional at this point than anything else," he explains. "For me, if a song can stand up [solo], then you've got a good song. From a songwriter's point of view, if I can pull a song together and hold it for an audience just

like that, I know I'm onto something."

Although his recent work is more reminiscent of a cross breed between The Tea Party and Jack Johnson, he acknowledges that he's far from done playing with a band. His upcoming album will feature a full rock ensemble—but for now, he's content to test his mettle with solo performances, letting the acoustic numbers he's working on develop during the later recording process.

"I'm at the starting point with the bare bones of the songs themselves," he stresses. "When I go into production, it's going to explode into a whole new thing. The songs will be developed as the recording takes place. I want to get some strings on the record, which won't transfer live, of course. But it'll be epic."

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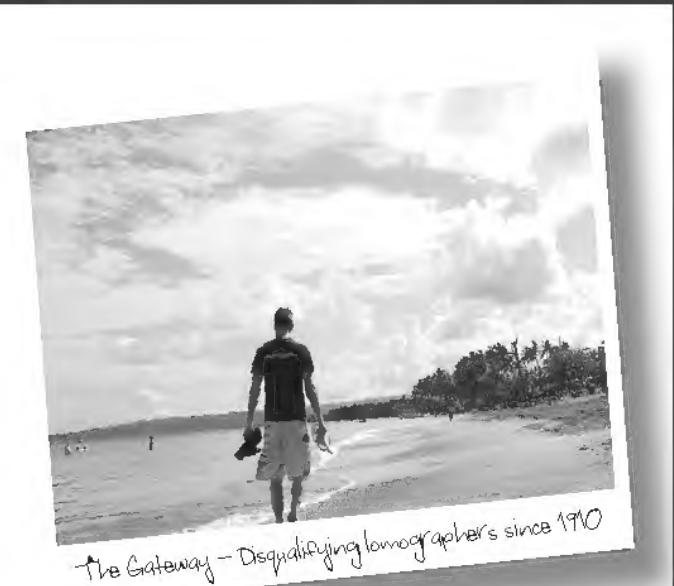


**SO, OK... WE HAD A FIRE.  
BIG WHOOP.  
WE'VE GOT A TEAM OF GUYS  
FIXING SHIT IN THE BASEMENT  
AS YOU READ THIS, SO DON'T  
GET YOUR VAGINAS ALL  
TWISTED. WE WILL BE  
RE-OPENING SOON.  
ISH.**

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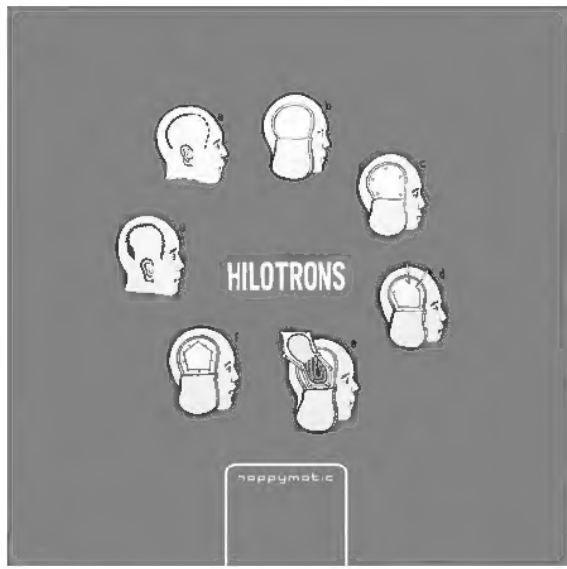
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albumreview

**Hilotrons**  
*Happymatic*  
Kelp Records

GARY ALLEN  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Like a hipster’s wet dream, the third album from the Ottawa-based Hilotrons, *Happymatic*, is a collection of eclectically influenced tracks that border on schizophrenic. One thing, however, stands in the way of the album’s domination of all things hip: *Happymatic* is very listenable pop music, which could prove either its greatest asset or biggest liability.

According to their label’s

website, “Hilotrons have been pumping up the jam since 2001,” but have largely focused on being one of Ottawa’s best live bands, and have thus only released two albums prior to *Happymatic*. It’s not hard to understand why Hilotrons are a popular live act: they’re one of few bands that manage to translate some of the live excitement onto their album.

*Happymatic* is an energetic and

fun frolic into the world of indie-pop music, and it’s hard to describe the album without using the pure sensual reaction: it’s happy, affecting, involving, and actually manages to put a smile on your face and include you in the merriment.

The songs are extremely varied but consistently solid: the opener, “Lost in Yichang,” is Strokes-lite, and “Feet First” sounds like a Barry Gray theme song to a long lost *Thunderbirds* pilot. The album’s highlights are “Lovesuit,” a tick-tock singalong, and “Emergency Street,” a ska-influenced romp with driving guitars and plenty of “na-nas” to sing along with.

Overall, *Happymatic* is a joy to listen to and manages to capture the energy and excitement of both the material and the band. You can’t ask for more than that.



albumreview

**The Feminists**  
*Can’t Scream Loud Enough*  
Space Dog

KELSEY TANASIUKE  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

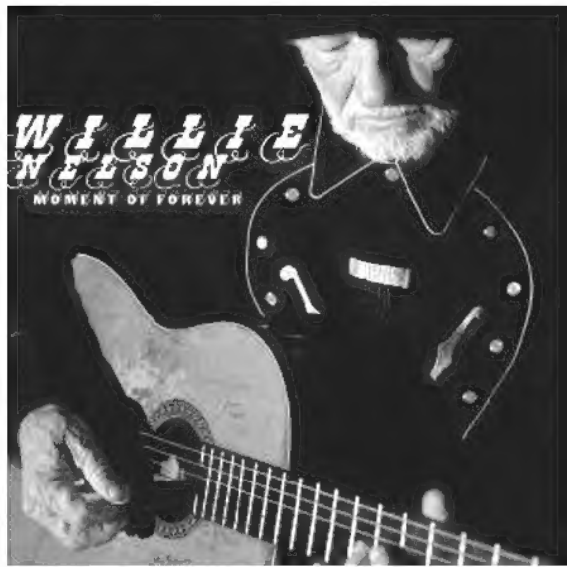
*Can’t Scream Loud Enough* is an album that comes at you full of connotations the second you hear the title and band name. These Vancouver-based Feminists seem to make it their business to throw out connotations along with the garbage. Completely devoid of the screamings of angry feminists, *Can’t Scream Loud Enough* is just out to have a little fun.

Dominated by upbeat tracks and playful lyrics, The Feminists’ third album follows their self-proclaimed path of “21st century rock band” by stealing elements from musical history and blending them with current favourites. Classic rock elements and synthesizer-accented songs reign supreme throughout. Percussion also plays a big role in their sound:

the clear and melodic beats that last the entire album inflict the listener with an uncontrollable need to bounce along in time. If *Can’t Scream Loud Enough* doesn’t make you want to move, then you’re probably a paraplegic.

As with most albums, The Feminists’ music does have its drawbacks. While frontman Keith Grief (yes, The Feminists are fronted by a dude) has a great head for lyrics, he doesn’t have a voice to match his wordplay.

His vocals won’t grate on you in the first couple tracks, but by the end of the album, you may want to duct tape his mouth shut: some singer/songwriters are just meant to give it up and start careers as hermit poets who never read their work out loud.



albumreview

**Willie Nelson**  
*A Moment of Forever*  
Lost Highway

STEFFI ROSSKOPF  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Willie Nelson’s *A Moment of Forever* is a creative approach to mixing Nelson’s traditional guitar-pickin’ sound with his unique voice and different musical interpretations of classics like Kris Kristofferson’s “Moment of Forever,” as well as contemporary country hits like Big Kenny’s “The Bob Song.”

After 2004’s *Outlaws and Angels*—which featured artists like Toby Keith and Kid Rock stepping in to back Nelson up—he’s again successful at bringing the past and

present together, in part due to choosing Kenny Chesney and Buddy Cannon as producers. Their influence is felt throughout the entire album, and though it takes a few listens to appreciate the rather funky adoption of Bob Dylan’s “Gotta Serve Somebody,” Nelson’s own “You Don’t Think I’m Funny Anymore” makes the album comfortable enough for those expecting a certain sound from a Nelson album. On *A Moment of Forever*, this song is most reminiscent of his work in the

past, like the *Storytellers* series with Johnny Cash in the ’90s or legendary Nelson songs like “Good Hearted Woman.”

Though the album contains a varied span of songs—unsurprising, given Nelson’s age—there’s a common theme of time throughout: all the songs more or less focus on a particular moment or the passing thereof, and consequently, listening through *A Moment of Forever* is like a journey into the past led by the traditional Nelson sound and lyrics. But it also looks into the future by mixing the Nelson sound with funkier, musical interpretations.

“Always Now” most effectively accomplishes this task with its Hawaiian influence, and lines like “It’s always now / And nothing ever goes away,” are the perfect reminder that Nelson’s music is here to stay.



albumreview

**Matt Lipscombe**  
*Folk Tales*  
Independent

VANESSA HORNE  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

*Folk Tales* is the first English release of Matt Lipscombe, who started a solo project after the dissolution of his former ska-punk band, Me Mom and Morgentaler. However, *Folk Tales* couldn’t be more different than ska-punk: turn on Matt Lipscombe’s album, and you’re immediately transported to an intimate performance like you’d find in a small café.

His soothing voice is combined with a variety of guest artists on each

track, including Polaris Prize winner Patrick Watson on piano, former bandmate Sid Zanforlin on drums, and Becky Foon on cello.

That dream team of talented musicians—and a few more friends—gives *Folk Tales* some fantastic highs: Vivian Doan and a few others provide a beautiful supporting female harmony on “Strange Music,” “Heroes and Promises,” and throughout the album. The collaborations give the album an extended-family-reunion

feel that adds to the variety of each track. That said, Lipscombe stays close to the folk genre throughout *Folk Tales*, and though the recordings are hardly perfect—each track was recorded at cafés or in his home—their little flaws only adds to the intimacy of the album.

Patrick Watson’s eerie piano adds depth throughout *Folk Tales* and even plants an Elton John feel in “Very Big Fortress.” If a lowpoint had to be chosen, “Bramble and Thistle” would be it, given the song’s relative simplicity when compared to an album of amazing lyrics and sounds. “Faith” is another particularly amazing display of Matt Lipscombe’s skill that’s both original and catchy.

Overall, *Folk Tales* illustrates Matt Lipscombe’s ability to provide an album full of unique, folksy tracks with fun rhythms and clever lyrics.

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# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 38 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 6 march, 2008



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

**POLL POSITIONS** It's that time of year again, so go out and pick next year's SU Executive. To find out how other universities get students to vote, see page 5.

## Federal gov't funds new grant program

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

A replacement for the Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF) became a reality after the Conservative government secured parliamentary backing of their 2008 federal budget Tuesday night.

The MSF was established under the Chr tien Liberals in 1998 as a \$2.5-billion fund and, since 2000, it has distributed more than a half million dollars in bursaries and scholarships to postsecondary students across Canada. Now, the MSF will be replaced with a new Canada Student Grants Program, which will begin at \$350 million—the same funding level as Millennium in 2009/10—before rising to \$430 million over the subsequent four years.

**“There’s, in all honesty, more questions on the details than there are answers. But overall the numbers look very very good.”**

**DR CARL AMRHEIN**  
U OF A PROVOST AND VP (ACADEMIC)

Reaction to the replacement has been met with mixed feelings in Alberta, where postsecondary stakeholders are happy to see funding continue but remain uncertain as to whether this new program will prove to be as effective as its predecessor.

“There’s, in all honesty, more questions on the details than there are answers. But overall the numbers look very very good,” said Carl Amrhein, University of Alberta Provost and Vice-President (Academic) said.

Unlike the MSF, which was limited to ten years, the CSGP is a permanent fixture in the federal budget. Furthermore, while under MSF students qualified to receive \$1000–\$4500 in annual bursaries, the new program gives students the opportunity to receive up to \$2000 per year, paid out in monthly installments of \$100–\$250 depending on income levels.

But, U of A Students’ Union Vice-President (Student Life) Chris Le said he was concerned by the fact that the new program gives money to a higher number of students instead of a higher amount of money to students who may need it the most.

PLEASE SEE **GRANTS** ♦ PAGE 4  
ALSO READ **KMECH** ON PAGE 9

## IT industry faces unprecedented shortage of women

Possible solutions, such as scientists-in-residence and better media exposure, suggested to change trend

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

A national shortage of IT graduates has the industry scrambling to find employees, but an even more drastic exodus of women from the field is overshadowing the overall drop in enrollment.

“20 years ago, more like 30–40 per cent [of students] were women,” said Gail Powley, University of Alberta Women in Scholarship Engineering, Science and Technology (WISEST) Vice-Chair. Today, she said, those numbers have been cut in half.

Powley explained that nationally, computer science programs face some of the lowest numbers of gender parity. According to the University of Alberta’s Department of Computing Science, during the 2007/08 academic year, only 37 out of 247 total undergraduate students were female.

Two correlated phenomena are currently happening in North America, explained Professor Eleni Stroulia from the Department of Computer Science. First, she said, there’s a general drop in undergraduate enrolments.

“So in a gender-neutral discussion, the numbers are dropping,” Stroulia said. “[But, secondly,] the numbers of females are dropping even faster. So we have fewer students, and the gender

gap is widening.”

The growing gender disparity is unfortunate, Stroulia explained, because “you need a multi-perspective team to make good decisions,” adding that as women leave the IT industry, the field becomes “more and more uniform.”

**“We do meet with people and work in teams and talk with people. We’re not sitting in front of a computer all the time, hiding from the world.”**

**ELENI STROULIA**  
COMP SCI PROFESSOR

Nobody knows exactly why computer science programs are failing to attract more females, she said, but ability isn’t an issue, as women are known to have good grades.

“So it’s not that they can’t do it—[and] we don’t see a similar phenomenon in math—so it’s not that math phobia is a problem.”

One of the possible reasons being

put forth, Stroulia said, is that IT is perceived as a geeky subject with little social interaction. The problem, she explained, is that women are thought to want to have an impact in society, and are deterred from the idea of sitting in front of a computer all day.

But, Stroulia stressed that despite the perception, there are “plenty of opportunities” to marry interests in other areas of life with computing science.

“We do meet with people and work in teams and talk with people. We’re not sitting in front of a computer all the time, hiding from the world,” she said.

Programs such as the Canadian Information Processing Society have sponsored Women in IT Day, which aims at engaging young female students in IT-related activities in order to communicate to them what a career in the industry might look like.

However, Stroulia said that “in some cases it seems that this does not even enter the choices of women, so they haven’t seen anybody that would emulate or illustrate this career for us.”

But Stroulia said that another idea that ought to be explored is having more women involved in technology featured in the media. She noted that criminology programs saw great boosts when the *CSI* series became popular and said that with good role models, more

women may consider the benefits of IT-related careers.

“Media has been recognized as one of the key problematic issues where people who join IT aren’t thought of as being fashionable or friendly or anything—quite the opposite,” Powley agreed. “The geek, the outcast—it’s really bad marketing, if you will.”

Powley explained that the idea of having scientists-in-residence has been floating around as one way to allow students to come in contact with role models currently in the industry.

“These individuals would be young, dynamic professionals working in local companies so that young people can see that these people are cool, they’re fun, and there are jobs,” Powley said, adding that another concern that discourages potential students is that jobs are being outsourced to India and other Asian countries. However, she stressed that while some jobs are leaving Canada, there remains a large shortage domestically for IT graduates.

Powley, who’s a chemical engineer, added that there are immense future career benefits of putting a focus on computers.

“Really, it’s a wonderful profession,” Powley said. “It’s high-tech, it’s current, you have the latest and greatest in toys, if you will, [and] there’s a very dynamic environment.”

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## In defense of good poster taste

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**THE POSTER SLAM, PAGES 12–15**

## EXTRA! EXTRA!

No, seriously. The *Gateway* will have a special edition out tomorrow to give you all the results from the Students’ Union executive election. You can also get your coverage tomorrow night at [www.thegatewayonline.ca/elections](http://www.thegatewayonline.ca/elections) as results come in. Democracy plus Internet equals timely democracy—read all about it starting tonight.



# Cuckow's thin script and unexplored characters far from heaven-sent

Local playwright's tale of Mormons, mothers, and sons is witty, but tries and fails to illuminate the darker aspects of humanity

## theatre review

### Three Different Heavens

Runs until 9 March

Written by Nathan Cuckow

Directed by Trevor Schmidt

Starring Coralie Cairns, Blair Wensley

Third Space (11516 103 street)

DAVID JOHNSTON

Arts & Entertainment Staff

You have to hand it to Northern Lights Theatre: their new production, the world premiere of Nathan Cuckow's *Three Different Heavens*, managed to hold the audience's attention, even though it features not one but two unlikely relationships between a straightlaced Mormon from Drayton Valley and a bar-hopping Edmontonian party animal.

Blair Wensley and Coralie Cairns take on multiple character structure as Susan (Cairns) and Joyce (Wensley), two mothers theatrically retelling the tragic story of their sons, Jonathan and David, in order to "show what really happened."

If this seems like a weak reason to move the story forward, it isn't the last time this flaw pops up; *Heavens* often sacrifices logical explanation and structure for dramatic effect. The theatrical convention of having Cairns and Wensley also play Jonathan and David is a perfect example of this: though the actresses credibly construct their sons, the situation lacks the insights or emotions that would normally come from this kind of multi-casting. The audience is given very little about how Susan



and Joyce feel about re-enacting their sons' lives other than that Joyce, the Mormon doesn't want to be liberally flinging the "F-word" around.

Likewise, we're led to believe that we'll learn about why Joyce and Susan are friends. Instead, we're given the story of how Joyce and Susan met—similar, yes, but what we're actually given isn't nearly as interesting as it would be if the two women actually invested time and energy into openly questioning what stabilizes their odd-couple friendship.

The big issues with the production ultimately lie in the script. Cuckow

creates this fantastic situation and parallel structure, but sadly writes very little to flesh it out. We never get to the meat of these characters—or of the story, for that matter. It feels very odd to say a Nathan Cuckow production doesn't push the envelope enough, but it's rather that certain edges aren't pushed. The subject matter is edgy—the way the characters deal with the subject matter is what's underdeveloped.

It's not that the four characters Cairns and Wensley evoke onstage are uncomplicated—the energy and subtleties the actresses bring to their respective roles are both notable

and nuanced, with Cairns' quietly reserved Jonathan a standout portrayal. The bigger problem is that they're simply not given enough to do. For a play about a pair of collapsing families, it's remarkably clean and elegant. Susan, Joyce, David, and Jonathan are all lovely people who get along mostly for reasons that either can't be elaborated upon or simply aren't ever brought up. But no one ever really gets to an ugly, emotional place in the story, and that's where the drama should lie. Some pretty horrible things happen to Susan and Joyce, yet we get to live practically

none of the fallout from their acceptance of this.

If taken as nothing more than a nice, light evening at the theatre, then *Three Different Heavens* works beautifully: the dialogue is witty; Trevor Schmidt's direction and sets are simple and elegant, perfectly servicing the story; and the second act contains, among other things, the funniest Mormon-history slideshow I've ever seen. It's when it tries to explore to the dark, difficult places of humanity and difficulty that *Heavens* unfortunately comes crashing back down to Earth.

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**M** McGill Martlets

The top-seeded team for the 2008 CIS championships, this may be the year that the McGill Martlets claim a title. They one loss, against Alberta, out of a total of 34 games regulation and exhibition games.

Goaltender Charline Labonté and defender Cathy Chartrand are national team members, with Labonté having had a hand in Canada's Olympic gold in 2006; rearguard Catherine Ward is also a Canadian national under-22 player. With a strong track record and experienced players, the Martlets may have just the right ingredients to bring home the gold.

—Rosie Aiello, the McGill Daily

**LAURIER GOLDEN HAWKS**

The Golden Hawks, OUA champions five years in a row, enter CIS nationals on a hot streak. Coming off a five-game winning streak and going undefeated in the playoffs, the Hawks' main threat will be their speed and endurance.

Goaltenders Liz Knox and Morgan Wielgosz have allowed only 24 goals against in 27 regular season games, the Hawks boast 10 shutouts this season. In addition, the Laurier offence continued their stellar play, netting 97 goals for the season, good enough for third-best in Canada.

—Lauren Millet, the Cord Weekly

**X** The St Francis Xavier X-Women hockey team, coming off their seventh AUS title, head to the CIS championship with the hopes of capturing the first-ever medal for the Atlantic conference. St FX finished a 23-0-0 record in regular season and playoff action.

The X-Women have a lot of firepower up front, led by AUS Player of the Year and CIS leading scorer Brayden Ferguson.

The X-Women are an experienced team, with the majority of players in at least their third year of eligibility. More importantly, many of the athletes have national playoff experience and are hungry to come away with a medal.

—Matt Skube, the Xaverian Weekly

**GG** The Gee-Gees are hoping to improve their showing as the host team in this year's CIS women's hockey championship. Last year, the Gee-Gees finished with an 0-3 record and a last-place spot in the tournament.

Goalies Jessica Audet and Melissa DiPetta both need to continue their strong play from the regular season. Audet posted a .914 save percentage, while DiPetta was not far behind with .909.

Kim Kerr, who leads scoring, finished the year with eight goals and four assists, and Kayla Hottot had six goals and no assists. The Gee-Gees will need to try to spread the offence around.

If all these elements come together, Ottawa could genuinely compete in the championships, but they remain very much a long shot.

—David McClelland, the Fulcrum

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA BISONS**

Seeded fifth, the University of Manitoba Bisons could be this year's dark horse to win it all. After a bronze-medal showing at last year's nationals, the Bisons have played at an even higher level this year, even handing the Pandas one of only three losses this year.

Goaltender Stacey Corfield—a first-team Canada West all-star—has been solid all season long, playing in 20 of 24 regular season games and all four playoff games. During the regular season, Corfield led the conference in games played (20), goals-against average (1.55), wins (14), save percentage (.927), and shut-outs (4).

—Romer Bautista, the Manitoban



FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO

**EDGE OF THEIR SEATS** Though the Pandas beat Manitoba to earn the Canada West banner, both teams will have a chance to play for gold at nationals.

# Puck Pandas up against same old crowd at championships

This year's women's hockey nationals in Ottawa will give Alberta a chance to nurse grudges and renew playoff rivalries as they face off against longstanding playoff foes like Laurier and McGill

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

When the Pandas hockey team gets to nationals, they won't be facing many surprises. Alberta is in the same pool as their longtime rivals the Wilfrid Laurier Golden Hawks and, if they can get past them, will likely face the McGill Martlets in a repeat of last year's national final.

The Pandas play their first game on Friday against the University of Ottawa Gee-Gees, the tournament hosts. As the second seed, the Pandas are clear favourites to win that match up—the Gee-Gees finished second in the OUA and wouldn't otherwise have qualified for nationals; while the Pandas took home the Canada West banner two weeks ago. Nonetheless, fourth-year Pandas forward Jen Newton knows the game won't be a cakewalk.

"I'm expecting it to be a pretty tight game, especially because it's our first game at nationals, it's probably going to be a little nerve-wracking," she said. "So we're probably going to keep things pretty simple. I'm just expecting to stick to our game plan and just go from there."

That game plan is fairly straightforward; as a team, they have a particularly strong offence and like to spread scoring around—Alberta has six of the top eight scorers in Canada West.

"Offence has been a strength for us, being able to put the puck away, especially in the last couple of months here," head coach Howie Draper said. "I think we're a team that has had to rely on our tenacity to create opportunities and pressure other teams on the forecheck, getting the puck in deep. We're very successful when we can keep the puck low, so we'll be trying to do that a lot."

Win or lose against Ottawa, the Pandas will play Laurier in their second game, and they expect it to be something of a grudge match. The two teams have played each other in every national tournament for the past three years. In 2005, the Hawks ended Alberta's 110-game winning streak to take home gold; the Pandas in turn beat Laurier in the final the next year.

**"I can't look at five-dollar bills the same—the one that Laurier's on. We always look at them and go 'ugh' and crumple it up."**

JEN NEWTON  
PANDAS FORWARD

"We have a pretty storied history with Laurier; we don't really like each other very much, so there's always something on the line when we play," Newton said. "It's always intense. I can't look at five-dollar bills the same—the one that Laurier's on. We always look at them and go 'ugh' and crumple it up."

The two teams most recently met in an exhibition game over the Christmas break, which the Pandas lost 3–2. As such, the Pandas have a good idea of what to expect from their second game.

"They're a really fast-paced team, so we know we have to pick up our tempo," said Alberta forward Alana Cabana, Canada West Rookie of the Year. "We know we have to jump to support and make sure we're there for our teammates. If we

don't do that, then we're in trouble."

Still, Draper has little doubt that his athletes will be able to do better against the Hawks this time around.

"They're a very strong team, and they're very skilled and very fast, so they're obviously going to present a big challenge to us," he said. "However, I certainly feel that they haven't seen our best, and with the fact that I don't feel we were where we are right now and we were still 3–2 in that game, I'm confident that if we can put everything together and focus on our strengths, [...] we can be successful."

Probably the most anticipated game of the whole tournament, however, is the possible matchup between McGill and Alberta, the first- and second-ranked teams in the country respectively. The Martlets went undefeated in the regular season, and Draper relishes the chance to play them again. After beating them in last year's national final, the Pandas beat the Martlets 2–1 in a shootout in a non-conference game in December.

"I don't think there's any question that we're going to see them in the final," Draper said. "They're an outstanding team. It'd be nice; you really haven't won a championship—you really haven't won anything—unless you can say that you've beaten the best, and I think that they are, along with us and Wilfrid Laurier, among the top three teams in the league. We want to win both of those games, and then we can say that we're national champions."

All games will be webcast at [www.ssnccanada.ca](http://www.ssnccanada.ca), and the gold-medal game, which will take place at 7pm EST on Monday, will be televised on the Score.



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# Track teams head to nationals

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

Sixteen of the U of A's best track and field athletes are at McGill University this weekend to compete at the CIS championships. The young teams have modest expectations for overall placement, but hope that a few individual athletes will be able to bring home some hardware.

"If everybody lives up to what they've got sort of on paper, we've got a shot at being in the top five again, but realistically, if we get top six to top eight, it would be fairly successful for our young program," said Alberta head coach Georgette Reed.

The Bears' best hopes in the competition include pentathletes Marcus Cunningham, Kristy Kublik, and Kalan Savill, high-jumpers Lindsay Bergevin and Matthew Cardoza, and throwers Matt Doherty and Jenilee Way.

"If our [pentathlon entries] really do what they're capable of doing and end up all three of them in the top six—and Marcus maybe ending up top three and Kristy maybe top four or five—then that would really be a success for our program," Reed said.

"It would also be great to see both Matt Doherty and Jenilee Way finish their CIS careers with a gold medal in the weight throw, and for Matt to double and do it in weight throw and



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

**OVER AND OUT** Lindsay Bergevin's U of A high jump record was a 1.81m leap.

shot put would finish his career off really well."

Reed also expects good performances from Bergevin and Cardoza, Canada West Rookies of the Year.

"If Matthew Cardoza and Lindsay Bergevin can duplicate what their

rankings are in the high jump, that would be very impressive because high jump's one of those things that's either hit or miss," she said. "We're hoping that they're on."

Competition will begin on Thursday and conclude Saturday afternoon.

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## PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK



**DOUG BOOTH**  
CIVIL ENGINEERING 265

Professor Booth is one of the friendliest and most helpful professors on campus. When final projects and presentation deadlines were approaching, he attended his classes' labs to help as many groups as he could, often staying hours past allotted lab times. He does his best to help his students through the entirety of their problems. He is always patient and helpful; he is more than deserving of this award.

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Nominations can also be picked up and submitted at any Faculty Association or InfoLink desk, or the SU executive offices front desk.



# the gateway online.ca



**Have you heard of it?**





FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

**PIVOT FOR THE POINT** Derek Ryan and the rest of the Bears beat Manitoba last weekend and now play the Huskies.

# Familiar foes face off in finals

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

Anyone attending this weekend's Canada West men's hockey finals this weekend could probably be forgiven for feeling a sense of déjà vu as they watch the Bears take on the Saskatchewan Huskies for the conference banner.

The two teams have a long history of high-level competition: this the seventh time in a row that Alberta and Saskatchewan have met in the Canada West final and the eleventh time in twelve seasons. Last year, the Huskies broke the Bears' five-year winning streak by notching two come-from-behind victories at the Drake to bring the banner home to Saskatoon.

"They've been our rivals ever since I've been here at least," fifth-year Alberta forward Tim Krymusa said. "We know we're going to get their best game, and for us to be successful, we'll have to bring our best game."

According to Krymusa, the competition between the two teams has been especially intense since 2005, when the

Bears beat the Huskies in overtime at Rexall Place to take the national title.

"From that point on, things have really been heated," he said. "It's been a great rivalry, and we love to beat them. I know they [would] probably love to beat us, but hopefully we can come out on top this weekend."

The Bears are 4-0 against the Huskies in the regular season this year, but the matchup isn't as lopsided as that record would seem to indicate. Three of those games were decided by one goal; the fourth saw Alberta win by two with an empty-netter.

"The teams are just so evenly matched," Alberta head coach Eric Thurston said. "Because of last year and how tight things were—and [that] there's no shootout—it's going to be, as usual, a one-goal game [...] and obviously very physical. I just hope the overtimes, if they do go, don't go triple or quadruple."

Unlike some previous years, a nationals berth isn't on the line for either team this year. Both teams have already qualified for CIS cham-

pionships in Moncton—the Bears by beating Manitoba last weekend, and the Huskies by virtue of a sweep over Calgary. This series will only decide the Canada West winner and seeding into the championships. Still, Thurston says the pressure isn't any less than if they were facing elimination.

"I think Canada West is certainly very important, and it's a real feather for the guys' cap, and they also have a lot of pride in the program," he said. "On one side, you say, 'Well, both teams are going,' but once that puck is dropped, that is absolutely forgotten. It's going to be a really tight-checking, passionate, and emotional series."

"Obviously there's a lot on the line," rookie Bears forward Derek Ryan agreed. "It's a good rivalry, and there'll be a lot of emotion to go with it."

"Seeding going into nationals is a huge deal, and we want to give ourselves the best chance to go into nationals and win gold. I think this weekend has everything to do with how the rest of our season's going to play out, so we're not going to take it lightly at all."

# GMC athletics head fired without cause

TARA REID  
InterCamp (Grant MacEwan)

EDMONTON—Almost four months after Grant MacEwan College athletic director Mark Mahl was placed on administrative leave, the college has terminated his contract without cause.

"It's really hard to swallow when they say, 'We're going to put your life on hold and in turmoil for the past 15 weeks,' then essentially say that there are no allegations regarding the investigation, but we're going to get rid of you anyways," Mahl said.

College spokesman David Beharry confirmed that Mahl no longer an employee of MacEwan, but said that the college wouldn't be making any other comment on the situation.

Mahl was placed on administrative leave on 1 November and was told only that an investigation into administrative procedures was pending.

He was sent home, and he said that

he heard nothing from the college for six weeks.

Mahl was then brought in for a fact-finding interview by an independent accounting firm representing the auditor general, who was conducting the investigation. Mahl said he was never told exactly what they were looking for, but none of the questions gave him any cause for alarm.

"There was not even a hand-slapper in these," he said. "It was absolutely ridiculous, the questions they asked me."

Following that interview, Mahl was again sent home and did not hear anything for nine weeks. On 21 February, he was called in for a meeting with the human resources department and Vice-President of Student Services Cathryn Heslep.

"It was a five-minute discussion, basically saying that they're not alleging I did anything wrong, but they are terminating me without cause. So I asked what that meant and was

not told," Mahl said. He said he was offered a severance package, and is considering his next step.

This hasn't been the only controversy facing the MacEwan athletics department this year.

In a separate issue, Mahl was also frustrated with the college's handling of an Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference investigation into the purchase of hockey skates for members of the men's hockey team. In a ruling handed down 7 February, the commissioner found that the provision of skates to four players constituted an illegal gift under the ACAC operating code.

Mahl disputes not only the decision, but the basic facts of the case as represented in the report: the number of players involved, the fact that players had done fundraising for the team, and the portion of the budget with which the skates were purchased. He is trying to get the ACAC to revisit the decision.

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# New Esks schedule bad for team and fans alike

The Eskimos risk losing support and money next season, and a calendar full of mid-week games and home-and-homes is to blame



MATT  
PRETTY

Sports  
Commentary

As if the Edmonton Eskimos didn't have enough to worry about. Not only are they trying to snap out of an abysmal two-year playoff drought, but off the field, the Esks will have to deal with an almost-certain drop in attendance this season due to the recent release of what is undoubtedly one of the least fan-friendly schedules in recent memory.

The Green and Gold didn't have a great schedule last year, either—anyone remember the nearly four-week stretch between home games from 11 August to 7 September?—but thanks to the CFL's exclusive new TV deal with TSN, among other things, this year's slate is going to be much worse.

First off, the Eskimos are scheduled to have five back-to-back sets of games this year. If you're keeping score at home, that's ten out of 18 games involved in a home-and-home series. Last year, they had five as well—including an absolutely ridiculous four in a row from 3 September to 20 October. This bunch isn't any better: the Esks play Toronto twice in mid-July, then don't see them again for the rest of the year. Edmonton doesn't play Winnipeg until the last week of September, then plays them twice in a row.

Traditional home-and-homes—like the annual Labour Day series with Calgary—are fine, and when they only happen once or twice a year, many fans actually look forward to them. That won't be the case this year. There will be twelve back-to-back series in the CFL this year, and the Eskimos are scheduled to play in nearly half of them.

And that's not even the worst part. The CFL traditionally plays the vast majority of its games on week-

ends—Friday nights, Saturdays, and Sundays.

**Edmonton fans won't be able to see a weekend home game until the second weekend of September.**

But this season, the Eskimos have five of their first ten games on Thursdays, and all five of those games are at home. Edmonton fans won't be able to see a weekend home game until the second weekend of September. Not only that, but three of those Thursday home games start at 8pm. No one else in the league has more than one late start, or more than three Thursday home games.

While TSN deserves the brunt of the blame for this due to other weekend TV commitments, the Eskimos front office (like every other team) had to

approve this version of the schedule, which makes me wonder just what team management is thinking. Even though it's summer, a lot of families and young kids won't be able to go to the Thursday games. The average working fan will likely stay home from a late start or two because they have to get up early on Friday for work.

Add in that all of these games are against traditionally good draws (Calgary, BC, Toronto, and Saskatchewan twice), and the Eskimos will most likely see a severe drop in attendance compared to the historical average, especially against Calgary and the 'Riders—any road-tripping fans of those teams will be hard-pressed to make a Thursday game here. The Esks took in 48 per cent of their revenues from gate receipts last year—there's no way they'll reach the same revenue level this year without those road fans and the home fans that will be forced away.

And after all that, the final shot to the collective gut of Esks fans (and

the Esks' finances) will come in late October. The last home game for Edmonton of the season is on a Friday night, against Montreal—which also happens to be Halloween night. Families won't go. Young trick-or-treating kids won't go. Parents taking their young kids out trick-or-treating won't go. Older kids and anyone else with other traditional Halloween plans won't go. If the Eskimos put up an on-field record similar to the past two years going into that game, they'll be lucky to draw 20 000 fans (to put that in perspective, Commonwealth hasn't hosted a regular season crowd under 30 000 since 2001).

With a schedule like that, the only possible way that Edmonton will remain at the top of the CFL attendance standings is for the team to do extremely well on the field, which might be hard considering how the last two years have gone. And regardless what's happening on the field, it's going to be a tough year to follow—even for diehard fans.

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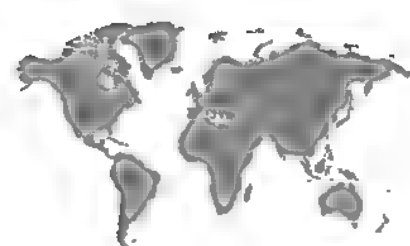
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## astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

This past weekend, I explored the exciting town of Cochrane! Did anyone believe that adjective? No, I thought not. At least there was a cute baby involved; not mine though. This astronogirl's not going to be popping out the young ones for quite a while.

Did you know that some planets are visible in the daytime? Earth is the first one that comes to mind, har har, but our sister planet Venus (I wonder what Venus has

to say about this relationship) is sometimes visible during the daytime as well. Yesterday was one of those sometimes. Venus was very close to the crescent moon during part of the day, making it much easier to find than usual. I saw it, did you?

If any of you were waiting with bated breath to find out why the planets don't twinkle like the stars, your wait is over. The planets are much closer to Earth than any of the stars, so the twinkling effect of refracted light from our atmosphere isn't nearly as noticeable

as with the stars. You'll also notice that stars near the horizon twinkle much more than stars higher up in the sky. This is because when we look at stars near the horizon, there's much more atmosphere in the way, therefore more atmospheric disturbance. Stars right above us have less atmosphere in the way, so less of their light gets refracted.

*AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life.*

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Personal care aide required for male quadriplegic. Weekday and weekend evenings positions available. Semi-flexible hours, plenty of time off available during the day. Good position for part-time student to earn full time wages. No experience required, will train. Value experience in healthcare field.

Position available through summer and next academic year. Drivers license required, own car an asset. Contact Mark @ [mno.tzk@shaw.ca](mailto:mno.tzk@shaw.ca) to apply or for more information

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Clinical Assistant Wanted Temp PT, possible perm, reception position in Christian wellness based office. Need ministry focused individual. Southside location. 9-16 hrs/week 3-4 days/week. Will train. Fax resume to 780-462-5464 or email [insideout@ocf.com](mailto:insideout@ocf.com)

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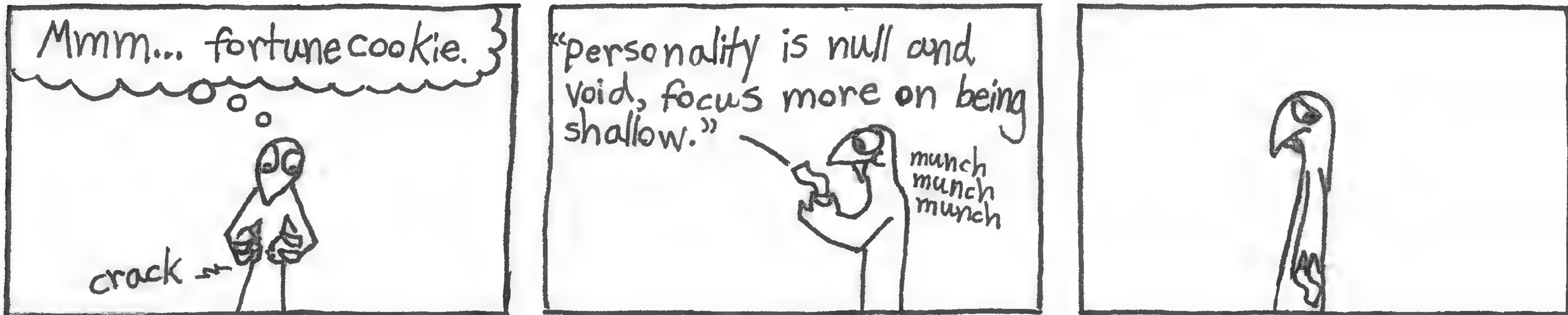
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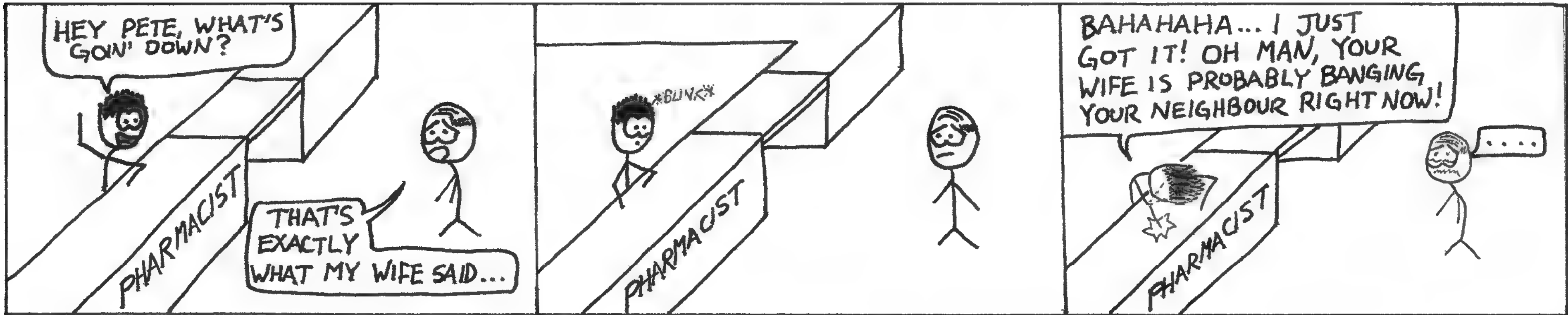
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## colophon

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## contributors

Contributors: Lauren Stiegitz, Pete Yee, David Johnston, Joni Knecht, Tyson Durst, Sean Steeles, Gary Allen, Steffi Rosskopf, Vanessa Horne, Katleen Belsky, Inessa, that's a thing, me soft, a thing is song, a thing is song, Kirsten Goruk, Caroline Lee, Scott L'Abbe, Kat Koalas, Matt Prett, Sarah Ma, Jake Prince, David Johnston, Democracy, John Gagnon, Chris Krause, Lauren Aston, Andrea Font, Evan Tanasiusk, Pin-A-long.

## 66 Yes—I sell my body.

**AL-AMYN SUMAR**  
Arts Councillor

—In response to BoG Rep Paul Chiswell's question of whether or not he was paid to do other important things in his life.

## COUNCIL FORUM

By Kirsten Goruk

*Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11 March.*

## EMERGENCY MEETING GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

An emergency Students' Council meeting was called on Tuesday 4 March to debate and approve the 2008/09 SU budget principles.

The big topic up for debate was a motion that the wording "councillors shall not be remunerated" be struck from the principles.

Those in favour of its removal noted that councillor pay plays a huge role in encouraging Council attendance.

Among those speaking out was Arts councillor Al-Amyn Sumar. Although he admitted that councillor pay is unpopular among students, he further stated that it's Council's responsibility to maintain accountability among the Executive and that remuneration serves as an incentive.

"I don't think you can serve students

by cutting the legs from the Students Union," Sumar said.

In agreement with Sumar was councillor Natalie Cloutier. Cloutier is the sole representative for the Nursing Faculty on Council, and claimed that after a 12-hour shift with screaming babies, getting paid is a huge factor in her attendance at Council.

She went on to state that she has found a consensus among her constituents on the need for remuneration.

Councillor Leslie Stitt, who spoke in opposition, was in favour of councillors not receiving pay.

"Work that's done on Council should be voluntary," Stitt said.

However, Stitt added that on the whole, his Arts constituents want him to work towards eliminating councillor pay.

VP (Operations and Finance) Eamonn Gamble supported Stitt's position. Gamble countered the claim that Council pay helps maintain quorum in meetings by reminding everyone of the recent changes to the quorum formula.

Although Gamble explained that he was not against Council pay, he stated his belief that the system is flawed. His hope is that with fewer seats in Council, next year will serve as an experimental period for the new changes.

When it came time to vote, the amendment failed 22—11, meaning councillors next term will be unpaid.



CYRIL BALITBIT

**WAX ON, WAX OFF** Pharmacy students waxed up Wednesday at noon and lost their leg hairs to raise money for the Childhood Cancer Foundation.

## Sesame STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Caroline Lee and Lauren Stiegitz*Elementary students descended on campus last weekend for the ninth annual Science Sunday.*

## If you could fix any problem in the world using science, what would it be?

**Cierra**  
Nine years old**Areej**  
Seven years old**Jeffrey**  
Eight years old**Kaitlin**  
Eight years old

"Probably the ozone layer. There's a lot of things about that. Right now, the sun is getting closer and closer. We're learning about that in school. I think it's really interesting."

"I think maybe I can make some living thing stay alive."

"I would fix nature and how it's going." [What about nature?] "How animals are being endangered and stuff."

"Pollution." [How?] "Stop cars from getting gas."

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# Students' Union signs Bear Scat Memorandum of Understanding

Agreement assures continuation of popular service until after fall registration

RYAN HEISE  
Deputy News Editor

After months of uncertainty regarding the future of the popular Bear Scat registration system, the Students' Union has reached a deal with Bear Scat creator Steve Kirkham that will see the system be fully operational until at least October of this year.

Kirkham and the SU had been in talks about continuing to support the service in May 2007, but by the end of the summer, no deal had been reached. The SU also introduced a policy in July that limited their ability to support Bear Scat, but an amendment was made in mid-September that allowed them to.

In a recently signed memorandum of understanding, the SU has opted to support the service at least until the University improves its own registration system, Bear Tracks.

"Bear Scat will be kicking around at least through October, as a November-scheduled upgrade is planned for Bear Tracks," Kirkham said. "A re-evaluation will take place at a later time to see if Bear Scat is even necessary once the new Bear Tracks has been released."

In an email to the Gateway, University Vice-President (Information Technology) Dr Paul Sorenson outlined the progress of the Bear Tracks upgrade.

"This upgrade will have students review and have input into Bear Tracks. The upgrade is scheduled for production in November 2008, and we are at the stage of reviewing the new features and making comparisons with our current functionality. Reviews with students are being scheduled over the next two or three months. In conclusion, the University is committed to use this upgrade as an opportunity to involve our students in continuing to improve Bear Tracks for our students," he wrote.

The SU's primary concern in the past with supporting Bear Scat was a fear that they would erode their ability to lobby the University to improve Bear



FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO

**SCAT ATTACK** Steve Kirkham says he's happy Bear Scat will continue for now.

Tracks. However, after many councilors and students spoke out against abandoning the service, the SU reneged on its stance and struck a new deal.

"The Students' Union is supporting it from a physical hardware point of view," Kirkham explained. "So, fortunately, they have purchased and set up new servers for me, so there is enough hardware to support the service through the schedule-design process that's going to start in March for the fall and winter [semesters, and] when September rolls around, there will be enough hardware for the 65 per cent of the student body that regularly uses Bear Scat."

Kirkham said he is pleased with the resolution.

"I'm certainly happy that the Students' Union has come around and understood the importance of Bear Scat and why it should at least stick around until we know what Bear Tracks will look like come November," he said. "It was slightly disappointing that it took this long, especially even when students made their opinions known in September—when unfortunately part of the functionality of Bear Scat had to be disabled—that they really wanted it. It's unfortunate that it took this long for the SU to come to its senses."

Due to the up-coming SU elections, Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel was unable to comment on the agreement.

## CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

### WAKING TO A DIFFERENT TUNE

At 8:15am on 19 February, Campus Security responded to a noise complaint from HUB Mall. A male had apparently been walking up and down the mall while playing his trumpet and singing, waking several HUB residents. The amateur musician stated that he had previously been basking by playing his trumpet in the ART station. He explained that he had needed to use the washroom, at which point he headed into HUB Mall. CSS members spoke to the man and advised him that 8:15am is early for some residents and asked that, in the future, he keep his trumpet-playing confined to the ART.

### BAD BEHAVIORALISM

On 19 February at 12:45pm, officers responded to a complaint of a student making threats against staff members in the Biological Sciences building. The student was apparently upset over his grades and subsequently began threatening staff when they wouldn't change them. Due to concerns for the student's health, he was taken to the hospital for further care.

### BEEN CAUGHT STEALING

On 20 February at 10:45am, Campus Security was contacted by EPS, who had stopped a vehicle off campus and found the driver in possession of a laptop that had been stolen from a University staff member's residence a few days prior. The driver was subsequently charged with possession of stolen property as well as numerous other offences.

### THIEVES BOLT WITH MORE SEATS

On 21 February at 1:30pm, Campus Security received another report of stolen chairs from a lecture hall in the Tory Lecture theatres. There have been two previous thefts of a similar nature since the beginning of January 2008. The chairs were apparently unbolted from their bases before being removed. The chairs are valued at approximately \$1000, and the total cost to the University of the three thefts totals approximately \$3000.

### WATCH FOR THE HAND, 'CAUSE THE MAN AIN'T FLASHING

At 1:00am on 22 February, Campus Security officers observed two unaffiliated males jaywalk directly in front of a CSS patrol unit, causing the officer to stop. The males were stopped for the offence and identified. One male was discovered to have several outstanding warrants. He was subsequently turned over to the EPS with a ticket for jaywalking.

The second male was also given a jaywalking ticket and left the University on foot.

### THIS IS MY BROOMSTICK

On 24 February at 11:15pm, CSS responded to a complaint of a disturbance in ETLC. Upon arrival, 5-0 members discovered that a cleaner had become upset when asked to clean in an area he wasn't responsible for. He had apparently assaulted his supervisor by throwing an identification card at him and hitting his supervisor in the face. The cleaner was subsequently removed from the building and sent home. The investigation is currently ongoing.

### CU ON THE OTHER SIDE

At 3:15am on 25 February, Campus Security received a call from the EPS regarding a break-in at South Campus. Upon arrival, CSS officers discovered that a male had been observed by a security guard working at the new ART construction site. The guard had observed a male drive his car up to a gated compound, jump over a barbed wire fence, and proceed to steal large amounts of copper wire from the University. The guard called the EPS who arrived and placed the male under arrest. A significant amount of copper wiring was recovered, and the suspect was charged with breaking and entering as well as possession of stolen property.

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## NEWS BRIEF

## STUDENTS GEAR UP FOR ISLAM AWARENESS WEEK

In an attempt to foster a greater understanding and dialogue about the world's fastest-growing religion, the Muslim Students' Association will be holding its annual Islam Awareness Week from 10-14 March.

IAW is an annual event put on by the MSA in an attempt to promote awareness and understanding about Islam.

"We have this week to basically allow people to access information regarding Islam from Muslims, instead of say from the Western media," explained Zacharia al-Khatib, MSA President.

According to al-Khatib, there's a surprising amount of ignorance regarding Islam, with many people misunderstanding some of the religion's most basic principles.

"[IAW] is an opportunity for us to portray Islam in a positive light to people who may not have as much contact with Islam and Muslims in general," Farooq Iqbal, IAW coordinator, said.

With 1.6 billion adherents throughout the world and the fastest growth rates of any religion, both al-Khatib and Iqbal note the necessity of a greater understanding of Islam in society. IAW organizers hope to create a forum in which people can ask questions and learn about the religion.

According to al-Khatib, this year's IAW slogan, "One God, one message, one week," represents the theme of unity.

A variety of scholars will speak during the week, addressing such issues as the universality of Islam, its relevance to contemporary society, and basic tenants of the Muslim faith. A variety of entertainment events will also take place throughout the week.

—Karen McKee, News Writer

# Merit-based grants don't factor into new Canada Students Grant Program

GRANTS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"It's reaching more students, but the students who need it the most are getting less money," Le said. "For the students who [have lower incomes], maybe they would have benefited from receiving more money."

However, Amrhein added that while the idea of going to a monthly fee system is "intriguing," it's still not clear what the distribution impact will be on any particular student.

Rona Ambrose Federal Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs explained via email that the new grant program was conceived in lieu of MSF's pending expiration.

"A review of student financial assistance found that the Foundation had limited success in encouraging more people to go to college or university and did not provide students with predictable funding from one year to the next," she wrote. "Unlike the one-time allocation made to the CMSF, the Canada Student Grants are part of regular, annual program spending. This means that it is now a permanent program."

Mike Selnes, Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Chairman and University of Calgary Vice-President (External), added that while MSF distributed money to students on ratios of about 95 per cent needs-based funding and five per cent merit-based, the new CSGP seems to bypass any merit-based funding.

According to Selnes, "It appears that there isn't any merit-based

[funding], which I think isn't the best thing in the world because having a bit of merit-based is good—it acknowledges high-quality students, and it acknowledges excellence." He added that the MSF's split between needs and merit-based funding struck a "really good balance."

**"I think that it's really hindering those connections by not renewing the Foundation."**

**MAJEDA FYITH**  
SECOND-YEAR BUSINESS STUDENT  
AND MSF RECIPIENT

Second-year business student Majeda Fyith noted that the benefits of merit-based scholarship go far beyond their monetary values. Fyith, who was a MSF merit-based scholarship recipient, credited the Foundation for establishing networking connections through local, provincial, and national conferences, saying that they helped connect "leaders and innovators throughout Canada that will be the leaders of tomorrow in government and major industry."

"I think that it's really hindering those connections by not renewing the Foundation," Fyith said. "I can't even measure how much benefit I've gotten from it aside from the monetary value, which helps a lot as well."

Second-year kinesiology student Shaughnessy Fulawka agreed with Fyith, saying that she received a provincial merit-based scholarship after being involved in volunteer work and sports during high school. She expressed concern that by eliminating merit-based scholarships, support for that sort of extracurricular involvement may diminish.

"The conferences [through Millenium] are an amazing way to network with people," Fulawka added. "You go from the conferences with such hope in the world; you meet so many people who are so passionate about what they are doing and about what the future can hold—it's just a wonderful experience."

But Amrhein said that so long as evidence suggests there isn't enough need-based funding, he doesn't mind a federal program that bypasses merit-based funding.

"I worry about the provincial and federal governments focusing very heavily on merit base because the definition of merit often converts into a straightforward interpretation of grades from high school and then university," he said, noting that lower-income students who have to work while in school are often put at a disadvantage because they often have less time for study.

Instead, Amrhein maintained that to be competitive, there needs to be a very clear set of merit-driven financial incentives somewhere in the postsecondary system.

"Maybe if the federal government is much more aggressive on needs-based [funding] and simplifying and making less expensive the loan component, [then] it's a good idea for the university through their philanthropic activity to focus more heavily on the merit-based side of the distribution," Amrhein said.

But Ambrose noted that the 2008 budget has also established a new "prestigious Canada Graduate Scholarship award that, when fully in place, will support 500 top Canadian and international doctoral students a year. The new award, dedicated to the memory of Georges Vanier, is designed to attract the best doctoral students to Canadian universities. Budget 2008 provides \$25 million over two years to establish this program."

In the meantime, student leaders are waiting to see how the administration of the new program will be delivered. Acting NAIT Students' Association president Lisi Munro noted that the MSF was extremely efficient, with very low overhead, and hopes that the new program will be able to continue to have the majority of money transfer directly to the students.

"We're looking forward to some of the policy details; right now, they are all broad strokes, and we hope that when the details come, it will be good," Le said.

According to Selnes, "Ultimately, the most important thing is that \$350 million is still there for students every year."

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# Voter apathy meets its match at St FX

DANIELLE WEBB  
The Xaverian Weekly  
(St Francis Xavier University)

ANTIGONISH, NS (CUP)—In a time when student apathy is soaring, students at Nova Scotia's St Francis Xavier University turned out in droves to vote in their annual Students' Union election, breaking 50 per cent voter turnout. The massive turnout is unique in Canadian student politics.

From 19 to 20 February, 50.4 per cent of full-time students cast their ballots.

"To say that I'm happy is an incredible understatement," said Neil Stephen, Vice-President of Communications for St FX's Students' Union.

According to Stephen, the high turnout was the result of a two-year improvement project in the way the Union communicated with students.

Voter turnout at the University has increased by 26 per cent in the last two years.

"It is the result of an entire Union-wide focus on improving communication channels and relationships within the University," Stephen said, adding that their increased credibility in the eyes of students was a key factor in their success.

"You can't ignore people for two years and then expect them to vote. We've worked hard to build good relationships; [therefore] people thought voting was a good thing to do as opposed to a waste of time."

Advertising also played a key role in getting students out to the polls.

"We advertised the living shit out of it," said Michael MacIsaac, the Union's chief returning officer and Chair of Council.

Blogs designed to cover the candidates were introduced this year, the Union's website was updated regularly as the campaigns progressed, a second all-candidates debate was held, the campus was covered in advertisements, and the Union even convinced the University to post a link to election information on its main homepage.

Revisions to the Elections Act also allowed candidates more freedom in their campaigning, with the Chair's Office only stepping in where absolutely necessary, MacIsaac explained.

He said that this contributed to the most open and creative campaigns that St FX has ever seen, which in turn increased interest from the student population.

Gabrielle Schmid, a first-year student and first-time voter, decided to vote based on the Union's promotional initiatives and enthusiasm. She said that all of her questions about the election were answered with clear and well-presented advertisements.

**"We advertised the shit out of it."**

MICHAEL MACISAAC  
ST FRANCIS XAVIER SU CRO

"The U did a great job of keeping us students informed about the elections. By voting, not only was I supporting the candidates, but I was also supporting the U for their hard work and dedication to the election," she said.

Student apathy is a nation-wide issue that most student unions are trying to overcome.

Acadia University, also in Nova Scotia, had 28.9 per cent of students turn out, down nearly 10 per cent from last year's 38 per cent.

Ryan Tipping-Spitz, chair of the Students' Representative Council at Acadia, attributed the decline to the fact that four of the seven elected positions ran uncontested candidates, including the president and vice-president of student affairs positions.

"Turnout is definitely an issue, and we were disappointed with the percentage [this year]," he said.

Manitoba's Brandon University is in a similar boat. With their 2008 elections scheduled for the middle of March, the Students' Union is hoping to build on last year's 25 per cent turnout.

Current BUSU President Nathan Peto

believes that controversy increases voter turnout.

"Based on what I've seen, if students are upset with what the Union is doing, they are more likely to participate in the election."

Larger universities, however, often struggle to get even one in ten students to vote.

In 2007, the University of British Columbia's voter turnout sat at only 6.4 per cent.

Third-year UBC student Catherine Bright said that students tend not to care about the Alma Mater Society (AMS), UBC's Student Society.

"I don't feel that the students' union has anything to do with me except having access to some of my student fees," she said.

Bright said she only voted for the one position—in which a classmate was running—arguing that the AMS needs to break out and become more accessible to the average student if it wants to increase voter turnout.

Likewise, Carleton University's voter turnout dropped this year, despite an increase in the overall student population. Carleton's turnout rested at approximately 15 per cent.


Carleton Students' Union's chief electoral officer, Kimalee Phillip, said that advertising was a major issue this year and that in order to increase turnout, elections need to be publicized more.

But Neil Stephen isn't one to rest on his laurels after his elections promotions racked up an impressive turnout. He believes that there's still room for improvement, particularly with off-campus students.

"I think we got the vast majority of students living on campus engaged and voting [...] but there needs to be a real focus on developing relationships with students living off-campus so they have a reason to care and a reason to vote," said Stephen.

"When you understand something, you are more likely to pay attention to it."

—With files from Tim Bryant (the Charlantan)



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# Multiple degrees the norm for Maritimers

East coast undergrads leave region for second degrees

ANGELA WILSON  
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

WOLFVILLE, NS (CUP)—Postsecondary education is rarely a one-degree commitment anymore, according to a survey of graduating students in the Maritime provinces.

The study, conducted by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), revealed that over three-quarters of graduates from liberal arts universities plan to continue their education past a bachelor's degree.

The majority of those students, however, said that they would leave the Maritimes to do so. Of the students who don't plan to continue their education in the Maritimes, 38 per cent said it was because their program wasn't available in the region, while 29 per cent responded that the program they sought outside of the region had an excellent reputation.

Mireille Duguay, chief executive officer for MPHEC, explained that this isn't a surprising trend, considering most universities in the Maritimes are primarily undergraduate institutions.

"We cannot be all things to all people," she said, adding that students are often encouraged to study outside of their home region in order to experience living elsewhere.

Although most Maritime universities may not be known for their

graduate and research programs, postsecondary institutions across the country are benefiting from a boost in graduate enrolment.

A 2007 study by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) revealed that full-time master's and PhD enrolment has risen rapidly in the last decade, from 65 000 students in 1996 to 102 000 students

**"We cannot be all things to all people."**

**MIREILLE DUGUAY**  
MARITIME PROVINCES HIGHER  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

in 2006—a 57 per cent increase.

Meanwhile, preliminary figures for the Atlantic provinces in 2007/08 indicate that graduate enrolment in the region is up by 2.9 per cent over the previous year.

This boost in graduate enrolment is also reflected in the labour market.

Over the last 16 years, the number of full-time jobs filled by graduate degree holders has grown from 550 000 in 1990 to more than 1 million in 2006.

Despite the fact that most students will seek to continue their postsecondary education outside of the Maritime provinces, the survey revealed that a majority of them (73 per cent) and about one quarter of students from out of province indicated that they would like to stay in the region to live and work.

# Quebec may sacrifice student grants to maintain autonomy

JENNIFER FREITAS  
BEN NGAI  
The Concordian (Concordia University)

MONTREAL (CUP)—As the Millennium Scholarship Foundation expires at the end of 2009, the Conservative government's new permanent grants program will leap into action—but Quebec students could find themselves out in the cold.

According to the Educational Policy Institute (EPI), a non-profit research centre, Quebec has historically opted out of such federal programs and chosen to create its own programs in their place.

"We must be mindful that the province of Quebec may choose to apply their envelope of funding for this program differently, as they have done with the Millennium funding," said Laura Stanbra, Concordia University's director of financial aids and awards.

According to the EPI, however, the new system will only transfer funds to provinces with comparable grant and bursaries programs. Whether or not Quebec students will benefit from \$80 million worth of available funding will depend on the province's willingness to switch to the new model of deciding who gets funding.

It could also depend on the province's willingness to cede some provincial power to the federal government.

"The biggest potential loser of this proposal in financial terms [...] is Quebec," reads the study, which predicts that the province will refuse to accept federal standards in order to

maintain provincial jurisdiction.

But despite the ambiguous status of Quebec students vis-à-vis the new program, Concordia Student Union President Angelica Novoa said that the end of the MSF bodes well for students.

"[Now] we're going to see more investments into helping students in postsecondary education," she said. "The most positive feature of this [new] program is that all the money will be allocated to the students as opposed to being used for bureaucratic and PR objectives like the MSF used to do."

**"We must be mindful that the province of Quebec may choose to apply their envelope of funding for this program differently as they have done with the Millennium funding."**

**LAURA STANBRA**  
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Brent Farrington, deputy national chairperson at the Canadian Federation of Students, echoed Novoa's criticisms.

"We've been advocating for a changeover to a needs-based system for a long time now. Under the [MSF], there was no accountability—no way to track where the funding was going

through the organization. At the same time, they were trying to work towards a merit-based system of grants, which was totally unacceptable."

Under the needs-based formula used by the MSF, students' eligibility was calculated based on both their income and that of their guardians. The new grants, by comparison, will take only the students' income into account when assessing need.

Not all student groups are in favour of the new system, and the changeover concerns Zach Churchill, national director for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), which had lobbied in favour of renewing the MSF.

"Low-income students will definitely receive less money from this new program than they did from [the MSF] because its target audience is bigger," he said.

However, as pointed out by the EPI, a more pertinent problem with the new system may be that the shift to income-contingent bursaries leaves it open to uncontrolled cost increases.

The Institute's analysis concluded that the Canada Student Loans Program, which will administer the new program, may have to accommodate up to 500 000 students—more than twice the government's projected number.

"Since all independent students are effectively 'low-income,' presumably all independent students will be eligible," wrote the authors, who noted that the switch could "blow an enormous hole in the budget, [with annual costs inflating to] well over \$1 billion."

**"There's no money in poetry, but then there's no poetry in money, either."**

—Robert Graves, 1895–1985

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For a complete list of rules visit  
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The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher for the 2008/2009 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009 and pays \$1950.51/mo\*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2008/2009 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a *Gateway* editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.\*\* Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 7 March 2008.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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All terms run from 1 May 2008 to 30 April 2009. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Six issues of the *Gateway* will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three of the six summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive \$1625.43\* per month. Web will receive \$1000.00\* per month, all other line editors will receive \$1281.88\* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee. Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Steve Smith, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 14 March 2008.** Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

\* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase.

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**T**he world of politics is a cutthroat place where lines are drawn and choices are limited. There's no having it both ways when dealing with questions like Obama or Clinton, Democrats or Republicans, PCs or Liberals, or even voting or not voting—and you can't even get away with sharing a drink with someone lest they turn out to be a lobbyist or a wanted criminal or both.

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# BALLOT



**NEWS** ..... FRIDAYS AT 3PM



**OPINION** ..... THURSDAYS AT 4PM



**A&E** ..... THURSDAYS AT 5PM



**SPORTS** ..... TUESDAYS AT 4PM



**FEATURES** ..... MONDAYS AT 3PM



**PHOTO** ..... FRIDAYS AT 4PM



**ILLUSTRATION** ..... WEDNESDAYS AT 4<sup>30</sup>PM

# THE GATEWAY

One step ahead of NOTA since 1910



## Excessive board rulings should DIE

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS TEND TO BE BLAND and uninteresting, and this year has been no different. However, in previous years, despite the slate of lackluster candidates, I can't say that I've ever been ashamed of our SU—until now, that is.

This election has been sullied by the Bobby Samuel quagmire and has caused me to lose what little faith I had in the student government. The whole affair has been bogged down in needless bureaucracy that is little more than a reflection of the animosity that some individuals have against Samuel.

Coming into the election I agreed that he had no business running, because if you make a colossal mistake right before an election, you should have the grace to back down and take your medicine. And though some may believe that he's some kind of hero of democracy who persevered in the face of adversity—like Dustin Miller, who stopped just shy of endorsing his opponent—he's really just stubborn.

He was too stubborn to apologize to his colleagues for the whole pamphlet debacle—which led to his censuring and the initial DIE board hearing—and he was too stubborn to call it quits on his campaign, which led to the three subsequent hearings. But as much as I'd like to blame this whole debacle solely on Samuel's thickheadedness, it's also the fault of maliciousness on the part of the complainants.

The initial complaint was valid because it ensured that Samuel couldn't get away with pre-campaigning due to a technicality—essentially, showing that he couldn't outwit the system. But what followed wasn't much more than petty squabbling that was a waste of the Board's—and students'—time.

Basically, Samuel was expected to back down, and when he chose not to go gently into the night, they decided to end his campaign for him by way of fines.

Let's face it: his campaign was doomed from the start, and there's nothing we can do to him that he hasn't already done to himself. The students who actively follow the elections (or who were dragged to one of the forums) are already aware of his underhanded tactics—and of Council's general disapproval of him. But aside from that, it's hard to want to throw your support behind somebody who asks you to “take a chance” on them and believes in establishing an ethics officer because they don't have the ability to decide what's right and wrong for themselves.

His posters are painfully bland, and the chances of any student actually taking the time to read his 8x11 mini-essays are slim-to-none—hell, I had to look at them for the Poster Slam, and I still couldn't bring myself to read his points. Even if they did violate the initial DIE Board ruling, wanting them removed from campus was an overreaction, as they're unimaginative to the point where they're virtually invisible, and I wouldn't be surprised if the ballot is the first place that many of the more apathetic students see his name.

But even then, he's gone ahead and ensured that these students won't somehow mistake him for a likeable candidate due to his annoying habit of holding “rallies” in Quad—though I use the term loosely, because someone shouting at you as you walk to class hardly constitutes a political upheaval.

I don't see this as an example of the SU taking itself too seriously, however—quite the opposite. This behaviour is childish at best, and should be settled in the playground instead of the boardroom. Unfortunately, it's an example of why most students don't take the SU seriously, or even give a shit about the elections at all. But perhaps worst of all is that this entire affair could have been avoided by the simple act of apologizing—a lesson that someone never managed to pick up during those recess skirmishes.

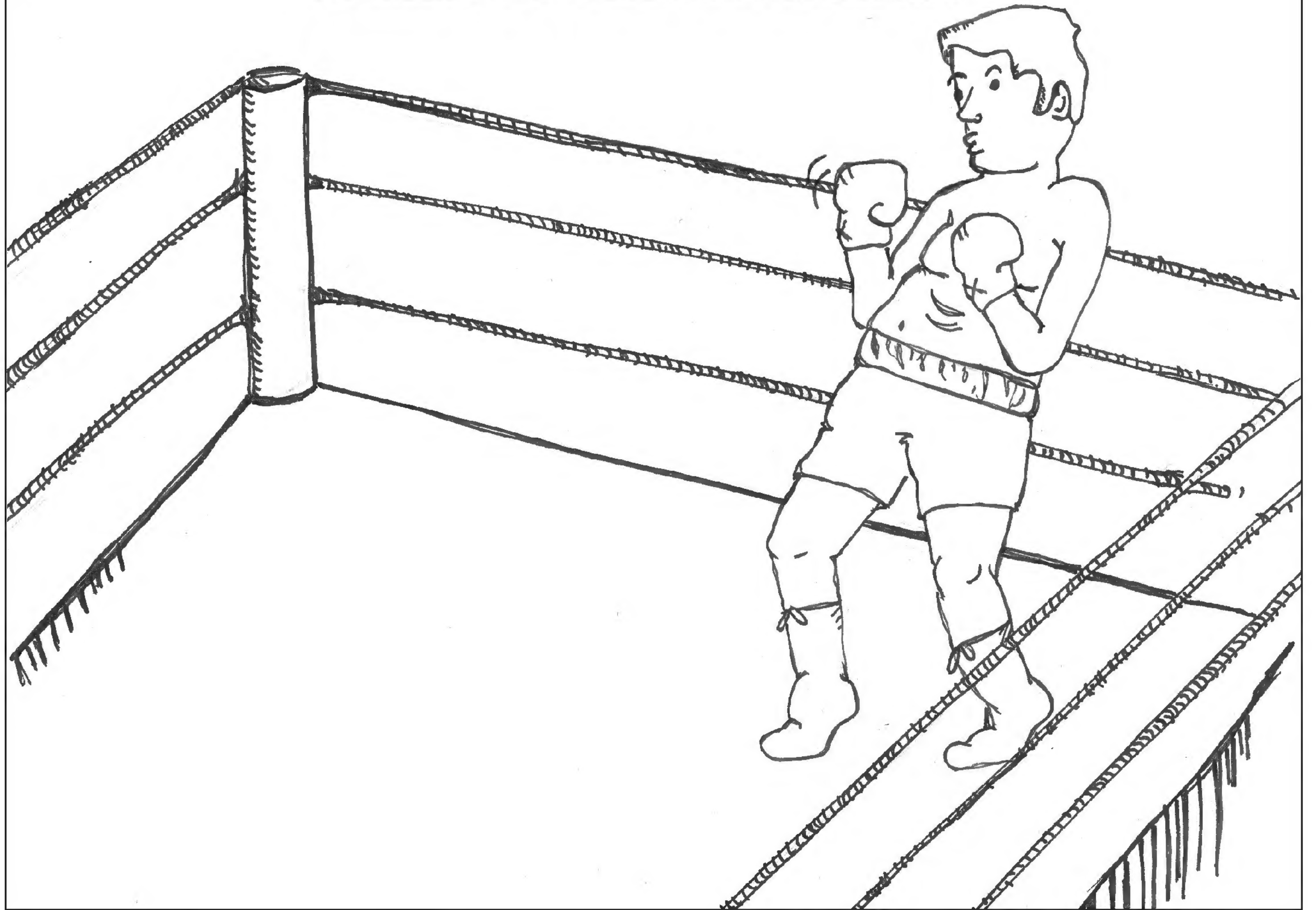
CONAL PIERSE  
Opinion Editor

## Failed saving throw

Gary Gygar's gone  
Rolling natural twenties  
At the Pearly Gates.

RYAN HEISE  
Deputy News Editor

## 6 MARCH JANZ vs NOTA FIGHT OF THE CENTURY!



ANDREA FOHT

## LETTERS

### Botched election autopsy

The SU Election Dissection was particularly poor this year, with content that was sorely lacking—when not simply contradictory (re: “Election Dissection—SU edition,” 4 March).

This was no more evident than in Sam Power's view of the SU's relationship with the University. She begins by criticizing Janelle and Bobby, stating that “the University is not on our side,” but notes later that “you've got to have the University behind you.” Poor Sam seems confused. But really, the issue here isn't a failure to recognize that sometimes you must work with the University just as you will inevitably have to fight it; rather, the issue seems to be that the panellists failed to understand the platforms candidates were presenting. It seems they gave a quick read of their brochures and moved to discussion; I would certainly be surprised if they were in attendance at the Myer Horowitz forum.

And other races weren't portrayed any better. Instead of focusing on either the issues or the candidates in the VP (Operations & Finance) race, the panel criticized Steven Dollansky for running during the provincial election campaign. As a result, they split the vote between him and NOTA, despite applauding his platform.

The final contradiction came in the VP (Student Life) race, where Kirkham noted that “Alena's not quite as prepared but I see greater potential in that” which was immediately followed by Power's criticism that “Kristen's platform is comprehensive, but it doesn't seem like she knows where she would place emphasis.”

So what's good for one is bad for the other? The panellists have missed the major issue in this race, which again

was made clear in the Myer Horowitz forum: Alena hopes to move toward programming, while Kristen would move toward advocacy.

All in all, it was a poor job by the panel, and I was left with little insight into the candidates or the issues. Hopefully we can just chalk it up to the distraction of the provincial election, and look forward to something worthwhile next year.

KELSEY MASCIOLA  
Nutrition IV

### Leaders need better hair

It was disappointing to see the Gateway panel give two unfounded votes to some guy with a mohawk. They claim that he's the only one with a vision to get excited about, but I don't see anything exciting about holding a ton of rallies that the media and students alike will only tire of—without even getting a turnout in the first place. If we haven't accepted by now that tuition rallies don't work, when will we? Sure they can create media, but we have to use other means to get our arguments across.

And what about the rest of the SU? Does this guy even know what services the SU runs? Doubtful. He seems to think that everything else will magically work itself out while he's rocking out to some band at one of his rallies. Yeah, watching our Students' Union fall apart is something to get excited about. When a presidential candidate spouts off the same old speech about tuition when you ask about community, you should be concerned.

Then there was the Myer forum, where he teamed up with good ol' Bobby, complimenting him for his ability to fight. I don't know, maybe you should ask yourself why he's been fighting? Maybe it's not just SU groups and services that he

didn't look into, but the bylaws as well. Oh right, *that's* why Bobby was fighting—because he did something wrong. Miller was probably too busy listening to himself speak to notice.

But hey, at least he's got a mohawk. That means when he represents us at BoG, he'll look badass. They would have to listen, right? Nothing screams professionalism like a mohawk.

Okay, so maybe I'm being too hard on him. In the end, he was still right about one thing: in your time to choose, choose leadership. I just don't get why he's telling us to vote for him.

BRIAN GEOGHEGAN  
Engineering IV

### Plenty of joke candidates

I'm writing this letter in response to Paul Knoechel's lament about the lack of joke candidates in this year's SU election (re: “SU Jokers fight apathy,” 4 March). Clearly, Paul hasn't been looking hard enough as there are three joke candidates running for president—or at least that is what I have to assume.

First there's the gentleman who appears to have just woken up one day to say “I think I'll run for SU president.” No one who's seriously running could really wear pajama pants to the Q&A, could they? I hope God didn't give him that idea too.

Second, there's the gentleman that I have had the pleasure of listening to before several of my classes. There's no way a serious candidate could be using “Accountability” as one of his campaign pillars while simultaneously trying to blame others for “trying to make his campaign materials illegal” when it was his own fault for reusing them after his first DIE reprimand.

I can only assume this is an annoying joke. I know these two

candidates have entertained me out of my apathy.

ERIN CHORNEY  
Science III

### Failure to vote not apathy

I refused to inherit my parents' voter apathy. I kept myself informed and hadn't missed a single election ever since I was eligible to vote. That is, until a few days ago.

I missed the advanced poll [in the provincial election] on Saturday due to academic commitments that kept me occupied for all but three of the eleven hours that it was open. It didn't help that the advanced poll slipped my mind, but one can hardly blame a stressed-out student for forgetting.

Monday classes and what-not kept me so busy that I couldn't leave the university until after seven in the evening. By then, I had only three-quarters of an hour left to vote, but the wonderful transit system of Edmonton sucked out all but ten minutes of that spare time.

I then rushed into the nearest polling station to my house, where I was promptly directed to another polling station even further away from where I lived. Dumbfounded but unwavering, I dashed off to make it in time. But I could only run so fast carrying my school luggage, and I ended up missing the poll by two minutes. Dejected, perspiring, and exhausted, I dragged myself home through the dark, cold, blizzard-like weather—a befitting end to a fruitless adventure. At least my sister, who had a night midterm to write, didn't have to go to all that trouble to not vote.

And people wonder why students are “apathetic” toward elections.

PHILIP CHOW  
Engineering III



# A Millennium without funding

The Conservatives' latest scholarship plan is leaving students out in the cold



JONN  
KMECH

Emerging from a downtown LRT station last week, I became witness to an unfortunate sight: a student with a cardboard sign, asking for money so that he could continue studying. Whether or not he was telling the truth, I don't know, but it did remind me of the hardships some students face in the name of higher learning. Thanks to the budget announcement last week, this is a struggle that will in no way be improved.

And though I have a renewable scholarship from the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation and also knows several employees there, this isn't why I oppose these changes. My main problem with the federal budget stems from the lack of any immediate additional funding being put into the system and the government ignorance of the student loan interest rate.

The new Canada Student Grants Program, the \$350-million post-secondary initiative unveiled by the Conservative government as a replacement to the reaper-fearing Millennium Foundation, is a pedestrian attempt by the Tories to appear like they have an interest in aiding students financially. Granted, it's far better than the worst-case scenario, which was no plan, but it shows that they give as much of a shit about reducing student debt loads as the Liberals gave ten years ago.

Except shit apparently doesn't adjust

for inflation and market forces. When you consider that the cost of housing, tuition, and textbooks have all increased over the last ten years, this new program is depressingly regressive. Tuition has gone up from, on average, \$3064 in 1998 to \$4524 this year, according to Stats Canada. The new income-based grants give low-income students a maximum of \$2000 per year—which works out to \$250 for each month school's in session—compared to maximum \$4500 for the current Millennium bursaries.

**Despite all the talk about how apathetic students are these days, incentives like merit scholarships that encourage increased involvement are the first ones to get axed.**

When that covers less than half your tuition, it doesn't come close to putting a dent in the expenditures of the students who fight to pay their bills.

As finance minister Jim Flaherty has stated, the program will reach 100 000 more students, but giving more students less money is an ineffective way to fight student debt; they're still offering the same amount of money per year, despite increased costs. Instead of waiting three years to increase the fund, why didn't the government just put in the \$430 million now? According to StatsCan's 2005/06 enrollment numbers, there are more

than 200 000 additional students in postsecondary education than there were in 1998 that will be competing for these. With more students and greater costs, more money has to go into the system to address the problem.

The other disconcerting aspect of the Grants Program announcement was the lack of action (or even comment) on the student loan interest rate, one of the most significant factors putting students with loans in the red right now.

Student lobby groups have been pushing this for months, causing nary a twinkle in Flaherty's eye come judgement day. Likewise, the absence of any additional merit scholarships is disheartening. Despite all the talk about how apathetic students are these days, incentives like merit scholarships that encourage increased involvement are the first ones to get axed. Adding graduate scholarships doesn't make sense when you're removing funding from the very people who could eventually benefitted from that money.

I just can't believe that after a year-long student aid review, this was the best plan they could muster, regardless of their decision to close the Foundation.

What's also worrisome is that, as far as I'm aware, never in this SU election did either VP (External) candidate address the PSE policies of the federal budget, despite the fact that it happened front-and-centre on the campaign trail. Oh well, we can always have large-scale tuition protest afterwards, united in wielding our cardboard signs, hoping that the government or the University will bail us out eventually.

On second thought, maybe we should try our luck outside the LRT station.

# The constant barrage of viewer discretion warnings cuts into my television time



JAKE  
PRINS

At the rate things are going, pretty soon even commercials are going to have those viewer discretion warnings shown before them. But it seems to me that having most TV programs give a warning after every set of commercials takes up a lot of time. I'd estimate that I've spent roughly 75 per cent of my life being warned that the following program contains scenes which may not be suitable for younger viewers—which is even more incredible when you consider that I've only spent 30 per cent of my life watching TV.

75 per cent sounds pretty high, but I'm sure it's accurate. I know this because I've spent 74 per cent of my life trying to memorize inane facts about myself (I'm quite the multi-tasker). I'm also fairly sure of my numbers because I can type the phrase "The following program may contain scenes not suitable for younger viewers" straight from memory. This is pretty ridiculous, and I think that, with a little effort, we can significantly cut down the amount of time we spend being warned.

If televisions were set up so that the warning is only given the first time you turn to a channel, then we could save

on a significant amount of time. This would be especially helpful if you were just going to stick with one channel for an hour or two at a time—though I don't think the channel flippers would be too impressed with this idea, as they'd flick through 72 channels and find that nothing's on but advice to use discretion.

Perhaps it would be simpler to just make it mandatory for all TVs to have the phrase "Viewer discretion is strongly advised" visible somewhere on the front of the TV. This would also solve the inevitable problem of TV movies being interrupted every fifteen minutes by a warning, just in case you'd forgotten whether or not it was suitable for younger viewers.


My next idea involves the classic party game *Headbanz*. To start, everyone puts on these ridiculous red plastic headbands, then you put a card into the headband's slot. The card usually says something silly, and then you have to try to guess what you are by asking questions. Or maybe you get hints. It might actually be *20 Questions* with funny headbands, come to think of it—I don't remember. However, I do know that I especially like playing this game with my extended family because then we get to perform a silent ritual where we go through the game beforehand and remove all the cards that say things like "condom" before playing.

My idea relating to TVs is that it would be mandatory for everyone to wear one of these headbands at all times, but instead of using a card with

a random word on it, you would put a big sign that gave the viewer discretion warning. That way, wherever you went, the viewer discretion warning would be visible to others. I think this idea is my favourite because you never know when some unsuitable content is going to jump out and get you.

An alternative would be to make everyone wear this headband contraption, but instead of having the warning written on it so that others could see it, the headband would extend in front of your face about twelve inches, and then the warning would hang down in front of your eyes so that it would always be visible. This would unfortunately produce the obvious side-effect of people not being able to see where they're going—and while you might think it would be really entertaining to watch a bunch of people walking into each other constantly, you'd be unable to enjoy it because either your view would be blocked, or you'd be lying on the ground after having walked into someone else.

Maybe we should all just lock ourselves in our closets. Though, that wouldn't work either—how would you get food? The problem isn't so much that it would mean there'd be a bunch of dead people in closets; it's more that I don't really feel it's appropriate for younger viewers to watch someone starve to death—even if it is themselves. I guess the only alternative is to scrap the warnings all together and stop blaming other people when you let your 8-year-old watch *CSI*.



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